

Two Egyptian foreign ministers quit over Sadat visit to Israel

Mr Ismail Fahmi, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, and Mr Muhammad Riad, his deputy, resigned yesterday as Arab protests mounted over President Sadat's decision to visit Israel. In a letter to the President, Mr Fahmi said that he

could not carry on his duties "because of new circumstances". Meanwhile Mr Riad announced that he would fly to Israel tomorrow and Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, postponed a visit to Britain.

Historic journey starts tomorrow

From Edward Mortimer
Damascus, Nov 17

President Sadat announced tonight that he will fly to Israel on Saturday evening for a three-day visit, despite the public disapproval of President Assad of Syria, with whom he has been holding discussions over the resignations of Mr Ismail Fahmi, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, and his deputy, Mr Muhammad Riad.

The Egyptian leader had said in a press conference before leaving Damascus this morning that he knew about his plan to visit Israel before he announced it to the Egyptian Parliament last week.

However, Mr Fahmi and his staff were conspicuously absent from the presidential ceremony which flew into Damascus yesterday, although hotel rooms had been booked for them and, according to one report, Mr Fahmi's baggage arrived on the presidential aircraft.

Shortly after Mr Sadat left Damascus a bomb exploded near the Egyptian Embassy here.

Mr Fahmi was appointed Foreign Minister immediately after the Middle East war in October, 1973, and for a long time was strongly identified with President Sadat's pro-Arab foreign policy. But since Mr Sadat's visit to Moscow in June there have been some hints of policy differences between the two.

Recently Mr Fahmi has appeared to adopt a firmer line than the President in the procedural arguments with Israel about a reconvening of the Geneva peace conference last weekend, during the Arab League ministers' conference in Jeddah, he had the difficult task of explaining to the President the individual policy in a pro-Arab gathering.

He apparently told his colleagues that Mr Sadat would certainly not go to Israel unless he had first secured the principle of total withdrawal from the occupied territories. If that is correct, it was no doubt the realization that the Pres-



Resigned: Mr Ismail Fahmi, Egyptian Foreign Minister.



Resigned: Mr Muhammad Riad, acting Foreign Minister.

dent seriously meant to go with out any preconditions that led him to resign.

The disagreement between Mr Assad and Mr Sadat was first announced by the Egyptian President at his press conference this morning. But whereas he tried to minimize its importance and suggested that the difference was merely tactical, Mr

Assad told reporters at the airport after seeing Mr Sadat off that he felt "profound sadness, especially that we are differing on a decisive issue", and said that Syria would now have to reconsider its policy very thoroughly.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes: The official Middle East News Agency reported that in a letter to President Sadat Mr Fahmi said he could not carry on his duties "because of new circumstances in the present situation".

The agency also reported Mr Riad's resignation. It said that he had earlier been asked by Mr Sadat to take over from Mr Fahmi. Mr Riad, who is the Minister of State in the Cabinet, is to be acting Foreign Minister.

The invitation to visit Israel, coupled with a letter from President Carter, was handed by the United States Ambassador to Egypt to President Sadat in Ismailia this evening.

Tel Aviv: Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, said he had put off his own trip to Britain, due to have started on Sunday, because of Mr Sadat's historic visit.

The news that Mr Sadat would arrive on Saturday took most Israeli officials by surprise. It had generally been expected that he would be here some time next week after Mr Begin's London visit.

A spokesman at Mr Begin's office said Mr Sadat will on Sunday call at the El Agoua mosque in Jerusalem, the third holiest shrine in Islam. After that he will go on to fulfil his wish to address a full session of the Knesset (Parliament), putting the Arab case on securing peace in the Middle East.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Mr Begin was in touch with Mr Callaghan by telephone last night and the two men agreed to postpone his visit. He will now come when a new date can be arranged, but there is no indication of when this might be.

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Hope fades of money supply being on target

By David Blake

Senior ministers are now reckoned to be almost certainly unable to bring the growth of money supply below the 13 per cent upper limit. Government's target for this year. Instead, they intend to keep firm control over the growth of money in the coming months, even this may not be able to undo all the rapid growth caused by the increase in the value of the pound.

An important element of their "best efforts" approach towards keeping within the money supply guidelines is likely to be a decision to let interest rates rise soon as money growth is succeeded by rapid growth in the banking month to mid-November. By the end of the year, the 13 per cent target which is the broadly defined money stock in which the targets are currently expressed, is likely to be around 14 to 15 per cent.

The government's hope is that financial markets will see this growth as acceptable in view of the inflows which occurred in the summer, thus upsetting calculations on which the target of 13 per cent "preferred range" was based.

Even the degree of overshoot which is expected rules out any loosening of domestic money supply in the coming months. The Bank of England's target for the growth of the money supply to below 13 per cent would be a rigid restriction of bank lending that it would totally destroy.

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Royal baby leaves hospital: The two-day-old son of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips was taken by his parents to Buckingham Palace yesterday from St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where he was born. He was warmly wrapped in a shawl against the cold of the day: the temperature was 4°C. Captain Phillips arrived at the hospital in his Rover 3500 at 12.29 pm to fetch his wife and son. Fifteen minutes later he and his family emerged to face a barrage of flashguns and cheers from the four hundred or so people gathered outside the hospital's private Lindo Wing. Some of the crowd had been waiting since early morning.

The baby, whose name has not yet been announced, was carried by Miss Delphine Stephens, a midwife, who was present at the birth. She handed him to Princess Anne in the car. Sister Zohra Ahrov, one of the nursing staff also involved in caring for the Princess, carried a Paddington Bear to the car. The bear, in a blue duffel coat, is the gift of a medical student. The Princess and her family left after saying goodbye to those who had nursed her.

Our Motoring Correspondent writes: The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents criticized the princess for carrying her baby in the front seat of the car and for not wearing a seat belt during the drive from the hospital.

Palestine secrets embargoed 75 years

By Peter Hennessey

More than two thirds of secret Colonial Office files on the last days of the British mandate in Palestine in 1947 will fail to appear at the Public Record Office when the 30-year rule expires on January 1. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office into which the Colonial Office was subsumed in the late 1960s, has prevented their release until 2022.

The papers represent the latest substantial batch of documents whose non-appearance has baffled historians. Inquiries by *The Times* have discovered the situation to the mystery.

The continued closure of part of the Foreign Office and Colonial Office archives arises from the Government's unwillingness to acknowledge its secret intelligence service. Any document containing material derived from secret sources, or even mentioning the existence of clandestine operations, is automatically classified for at least 75 years. The sole exception to the rule is wartime, when parts of the secret archives are revealed in a carefully controlled fashion.

The registers of MIO and its sister counter-intelligence service, MIO, are never disclosed. But their activities also restrict publication of files from the department, upon which covert operations may impinge.

Four in Office reviewers, or "weavers" as they are called, have strict instructions from a Cabinet committee that since the late 1960s on the handling of such material. Even the attachment of "Secret Intelligence Service" stamps to a document of a relatively innocuous document is sufficient to incur a 75-year closure.

The operation of MIO and MIO, which at the time were responsible for the internal security of the empire in Palestine in 1947, have resulted in 48 "pieces" of Colonial Office documents being put under such a continuing embargo. Each "piece" consists of a file of paper up to two inches thick.

The Prime Minister and his colleagues he consults on intelligence and security matters are considering publication of a two-volume official history of the Second World War. Mr Callaghan's agenda includes the implications of any possible publication for the continuing fiction that MIO ceases to exist officially the moment peace is declared.

A committee of permanent secretaries, chaired by Sir Douglas Allen, Head of the Home Civil Service, is also considering the matter and part of its general review of public record policy. Public acknowledgment of the postwar work of MIO is not a likely outcome. One possible remedy is the extension of all references to MIO and MIO from affected files, which could then be released in a declassified form.

The latest paper to be circulated among the members of Sir Douglas Allen's committee concerns the inadequacies of present-day "weeding" procedures. Drafted by Sir John Hunt, Secretary of the Cabinet, its forceful arguments have made an impact in Whitehall during the past week, as the permanent secretaries begin to make up their minds about future reform.

Anger in France over Croissant handover

From Ian Murray
Paris, Nov 17

The night-time delivery by France of Herr Klaus Croissant, the German Minister of Appeal, ended the defence gave notice that it would appeal to the Supreme Court and also prepare a hearing before the Conseil d'Etat should the Government agree to the extradition.

The Conseil d'Etat is the supreme authority on extradition and can overturn a government decision. Its secretary stayed open through the evening, waiting for the Government to sign any extradition decree and for the defence to lodge its appeal.

At 8 pm the decree was signed and at 8.30 pm the defence had the appeal before the secretariat. The next step in the process was for the secretariat to call together the necessary members of the council.

The anger in France stems from the technicality by which the authorities were able to extradite him before an appeal could be heard. As soon as the hearing before the Court of Appeal ended, the defence gave notice that it would appeal to the Supreme Court and also prepare a hearing before the Conseil d'Etat should the Government agree to the extradition.

The weekly gross figures show that a recruit aged 19 would get £52 a week in the provinces and £63 in London. A recruit of 22 would get £57.65 and £65 respectively and a fully qualified fireman £65 and £73. The sums would be increased by 10 per cent under the present pay offer.

Our Parliamentary Correspondent writes: The Prime Minister said in the Commons last night that if a settlement were near it would be unwise to endanger agreement by risking friction.

"If we were on the edge of a negotiated settlement, and rushing into fire stations and dragging out a lot of equipment, were to set back the settlement two or three weeks, it would simply not be worth it", he said.

Earlier Mr Rees, Home Secretary, made clear why it was impossible for the Government to budge from its 10 per cent guidelines. He said: "I had a message last night from other unions which said bluntly, 'if you give to the Fire Brigades' Union, you will give to us as well'."

Strain telling, page 2
Parliamentary report, page 6

Former SS man freed to meet press

By Stewart Tindler

The Home Secretary yesterday failed to prevent a former officer in the Waffen-SS from giving a press conference in London to promote a history of the unit and improve its public image.

After the press conference Lieutenant-Colonel Meyer, who was detained overnight by the police and then freed, obeyed an order signed by the Home Secretary to leave Britain.

Colonel Richard Schulze-Kossens, who was Hitler's adjutant, also left. He had stayed undetected with Mr Jonathan Gaiman, former chairman of the Monday Club.

The orders were signed because it was considered that the visits were "against public policy". Colonel Walter Harzer, another former officer, was prevented from entering Britain on Wednesday.

As Herr Meyer, once a member of Hitler's bodyguard and an SS divisional staff officer, arrived home in West Germany last night the Home Office and the Metropolitan Police were privately disputing the blame for failing to stop him doing what Mr Rees had insisted him not to do.

He was detained at an hotel at Heathrow airport, on Wednesday night, having been driven there by ITN to meet Herr Harzer. He stayed at the airport police station overnight, and at midday yesterday was driven by the Daily Express to an hotel, where a press conference had been arranged.

Home Office sources agreed last night that things had gone wrong. There was no mention on the order relating to Herr Meyer that he should be detained and it was suggested that the police should not have held him. The Immigration Act, 1971, does not give powers of detention in such a case.

The order was issued on Wednesday but dated for yesterday, which gave Herr Meyer time to attend the press conference. It was pointed out that he could have claimed 14 days in which to appeal.

Police sources say they were told of orders relating to Herr Meyer and Herr Harzer. Herr Meyer was found and said he was going to leave at 8 am yesterday. It is admitted that there was no right to detain him but it was felt that he should be kept at the police station as much for his own safety as any other reason. When he changed his mind about leaving, senior police officers said he should be released.

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African role delays Cuban link with US

From Hedrick Smith
Washington, Nov 17

The White House is disturbed by the expanding Cuban military presence in Angola, Ethiopia and other African countries and sees no possibility of re-establishing full diplomatic relations with Havana in these circumstances, senior officials said yesterday.

Disclosing new evidence of several hundred Cuban soldiers killed in combat in Angola, the officials interpret the Cuban build-up there and the Cuban military presence in 11 other African countries as a deliberate strategy by President Castro to intervene in Africa much as he promoted Cuban revolutionary intervention in Latin America in the early 1960s.

By American estimates, the Cubans have sent 4,000 to 5,000 new troops to Angola since July, increasing their total strength there to about 19,000 soldiers and 4,000 civilian advisers.

The White House is also concerned that the Cuban involvement in Africa may be encouraged by the Soviet Union. — New York Times News Service.

RAF fire-fighting teams drafted into big towns

By Martin Huckerby

Trained RAF crews equipped with breathing apparatus and cutting equipment are being drafted into Britain's big cities to help the fire-fighting services.

After advice from the Chief Fire Officer at the Home Office, the Ministry of Defence decided yesterday to move the men from RAF ground training units and hospitals.

There will be 66 two-man teams, some with tenders carrying foam equipment, and half of them will be on duty at any one time. London will have 10 teams and Glasgow, Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester six each. Edinburgh, Cardiff, Newcastle upon Tyne, Middlesbrough, Leeds, Sheffield, Hull and Bristol will each have four.

Senior officials of the union yesterday met the National Association of Fire Officers, which may consider at an executive meeting today calling a strike of its 4,000 members in support of the firemen.

The association's members, including senior officers, have been told not to cross fire station picket lines but have been providing most of the expert advice to military units.

Our Labour Reporter writes: Negotiations between firemen's

leaders and local authority employers will be resumed today, there are doubts whether they will bring an early end to the strike.

The chances of an early recall of the national conference of the Fire Brigades Union, necessary to call off the strike, appeared slim after the executive met in London yesterday.

Most of the 16 members of the executive are understood to have impressed on Mr Terence Parry, the union's general secretary, that feeling in their areas was heavily in favour of an improvement in the offer of an immediate 10 per cent increase in pay.

Mr Parry said the present talks with the local authorities were on a false pay formula for firemen and added: "We have never got into the field of saying that a future formula would be a basis for recommending anything."

Our Political Editor writes: The unstated political truce over the strike began to break up last night as Conservatives and, apparently, the Government, sensed that the men were swinging public opinion in their favour.

The Prime Minister, acknow-

ledging in the Commons that the men's true "gross pay" had not been "got across" moved quickly to have his figures publicized.

There were private ministerial hints, as Labour left-wingers became more restive in their sympathies for the strikers, that the Government was looking at new possibilities.

One way to cut the working week now, rather than next year, and to give the men overtime for the difference.

However, Whitehall insisted that the Government's 10 per cent guideline would not be breached. Payment of overtime would seem to imply such a breach.

Last night, while avowing opposition to the strike, Mr Whitelaw, deputy Conservative leader, declared the firemen to be a special case.

He said in Bournemouth that the Government had driven the services, the police and the firemen "to an unprecedented pitch of discontent".

Mr Whitelaw said: "There is undoubtedly some truth in the firemen's claim that we are living off their consciences." He believed they had to look again at the pay of all who

risks their lives for the community.

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"If we were on the edge of a negotiated settlement, and rushing into fire stations and dragging out a lot of equipment, were to set back the settlement two or three weeks, it would simply not be worth it", he said.

Earlier Mr Rees, Home Secretary, made clear why it was impossible for the Government to budge from its 10 per cent guidelines. He said: "I had a message last night from other unions which said bluntly, 'if you give to the Fire Brigades' Union, you will give to us as well'."

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Whip on EEC Bill angers Labour MPs

Labour opponents of the EEC were furious last night to discover that a two-line whip is to be imposed on next week's debate on the Bill for direct elections to the European Assembly. In July government business managers allowed a free vote, and Mr Foot, leader of the House, was pressed for an explanation at a TLP meeting last night. He said: "The Government is entitled to demonstrate its own priorities in this matter."

EEC shelves plan for early monetary union

Hopes of early monetary union have been abandoned by the European Commission. Instead it is recommending a five-year preparatory period of gradual economic convergence. Even its watered-down proposals are radical enough to frighten off many member governments, including the British.

US officials in Somalia

Mr Melvin Price, chairman of the American House of Representatives' armed services committee, arrived in Mogadishu as the expelled Soviet military and civilian advisers started to leave Somalia. Accompanied by seven other congressmen and an eight-man military party, he called on President Siad Barre and other Somali officials.

Ombudsman reports

An increase in the number of justifiable complaints of maladministration is reported by Sir Idwal Pugh, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman), in his fifth report for the 1976-77 parliamentary session.

Richest now poorer

Britain's richest social groups have continued to see a relative decline in the proportion of the wealth they own according to a report from the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth.

Handicapped test case

The Department of Health and Social Security is to go ahead with an appeal which, if successful, will deprive a Worcester family of a mobility allowance for their severely handicapped son. It is a case crucial to parents of severely handicapped children.

Barclaycard rate cut

Barclaycard has cut its monthly interest rate by 4 points to 15 per cent. With the peak Christmas spending season ahead, Access, its chief rival, is expected to bring its rate into line soon.

Scottish devolution: The Scottish National Party is to campaign vigorously for a "Yes" vote.

Pretrial: Council at Inquest on Steve Biko says he is ready to call the South African police minister as a witness to prove a cover-up.

Focus on Oman: A 12-page Special Report on the changing face of this fast-growing Gulf state.

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Letters: On the firemen's strike, from Mr Gordon Bradshaw, and others; on *Le Monde*, from M Jacques Favre; on mapping archaeology, from Mr J. D. Bofes, and Professor R. J. C. Atkinson.
Leading articles: Devolution; Next year's price of oil; Case of the SS men.
Features, pages 14 and 15
Paul Routledge on the role of the "moderates" inside the "electronic" *Sie Gendrey* Cox on the start of the Cold War.

Arts, page 12
Philip French on new films in London; Michael Ratcliffe on *Chronicle* (BBC 2); Ned Chaillet on *The Golden Country* from Manchester; William Mann on Brian Fennell's *Transit*.

Obituary, page 17
Mr Arthur Page: Dr P. M. Kaberry; Prince Charles of Monaco.
Sport, pages 10 and 11
Football: Norman Fox looks at Grasswood's position as England manager; Tennis: Rex Bellamy on old persons from Wembley; Cricket: England's captain fears a delay in county standards.
Business News, pages 16-24
Stock markets: In a quiet session the FT index closed 3.3 down at 4814. Money supply figures hit gilt.

Financial Editor: Towards higher interest rates; Shell currency distortions; Recession impetus from overseas; Redford holding the line.
Business features: Kenneth Owen on controlling television pictures by computer; Derek Harris on the latest posed by the Japanese television tube maker Hitachi.

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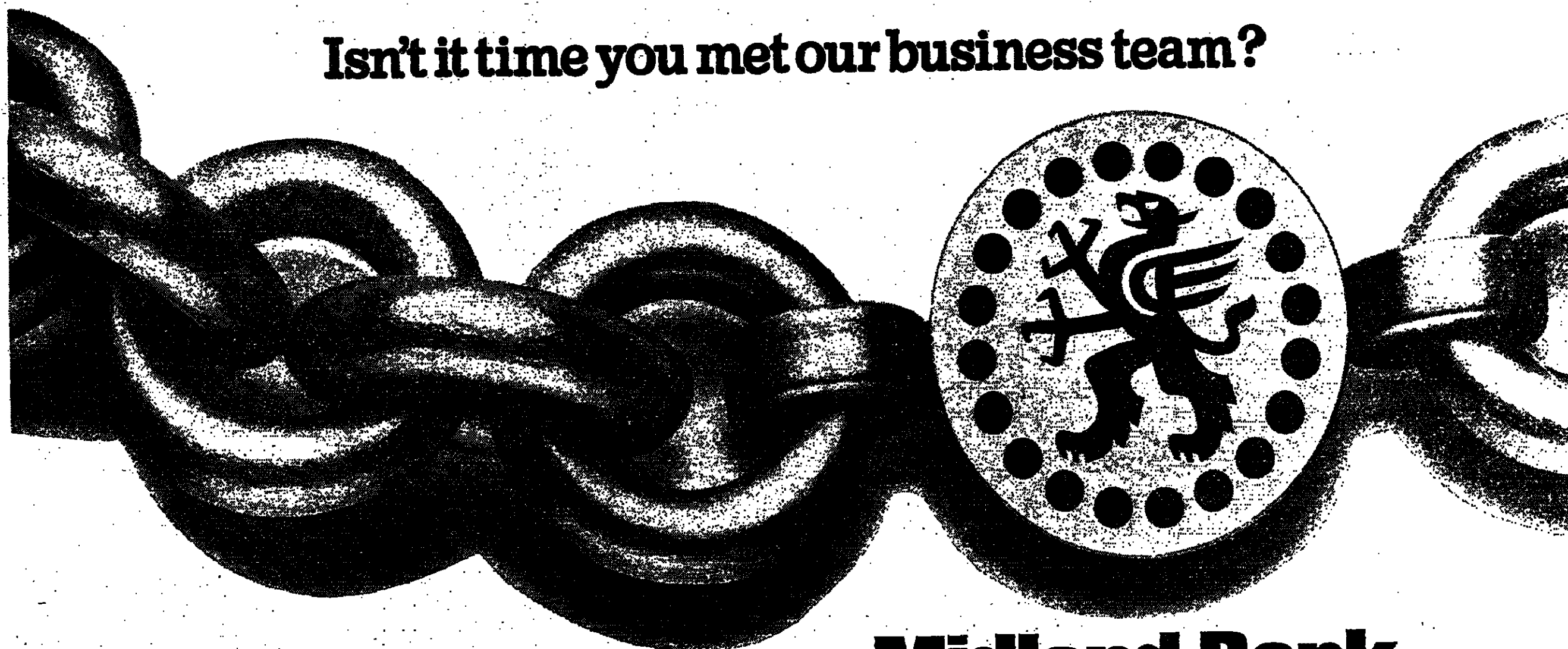
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HOME NEWS

The Queen invites her most meritorious

By Philip Howard

The Queen set a pretty precedent yesterday by inviting the 24 people whom she has selected personally as the most distinguished in her kingdom to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Order of Merit with her.

The order was founded by her great-grandfather in 1902 on the occasion of his coronation. It had been the idea of the Prince Consort, on the model of Frederick the Great's Order, pour la Mérite; but its inauguration was frustrated in the later years of Queen Victoria by Lord Salisbury.

Although it confers no title, and has no robes, the Order of Merit is the most distinguished of all orders, since it has always been in the personal gift of the Sovereign. It is never awarded for political services and politicians are not consulted.

Membership is restricted to 24 men and women, subjects of the Crown, whom the Queen considers to have given exceptionally meritorious service in the Armed Services or towards



Members of the Order of Merit photographed in the Music Room of Buckingham Palace after a service of thanksgiving in the Chapel Royal, St James's

Palace. Standing, left to right: Lord Todd, Mr J. B. Priestley, Lord Hinton of Bankside, Sir Alan Hodgkin, Sir George Edwards, Lord Penney, Sir Isaiah Berlin,

Mr Harold Macmillan, Lord Clark, Sir Ronald Sme, Sir Frederick Ashton, Lord Franks.

Scated, left to right: Dame Veronica Wedgwood, Sir William Walton, Professor Dorothy Hodgkin, Mr Graham Sutherland, The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Mr Henry Moore, Lord

Mountbatten of Burma, Lord Zuckerman and Mr Malcolm Macdonald. It was the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Order of Merit.

the advancement of art, literature, and science.

Twenty-one of them arrived for the service of thanksgiving in Henry VIII's Chapel Royal in St James's Palace and lunch in Buckingham Palace afterwards. The two senior British members of the order, Mr Graham Sutherland (1960) and Mr Henry Moore (1963), turned out with Mr J. B. Priestley and the other new boys who received it this year.

Sir William Walton came to

London from Ischia, especially for this first reunion of OMS. The two women members, Dame Veronica Wedgwood and Professor Dorothy Hodgkin, were present (the only previous female holder of the order was Florence Nightingale, a sorry comment on estimation of merit until recently).

It was an intimate family occasion in the pretty Tudor chapel that has been the cradle of English church music. A

row of the cleverest old faces in the United Kingdom sat opposite the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. The Duke of Edinburgh was appointed to the order in 1968 as a recognition of his achievements in scientific and other fields.

The only other living person to have scaled the honorific peak of holding both OM and Order of the Garter (also in the Queen's personal gift, with-

out advice) is the heavily decorated Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Mountbatten of Burma, who also was present.

The music, composed by such holders of the order as Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Benjamin Britten, and William Walton, was sung beautifully by the six gentlemen and 10 children of the Chapel Royal, worthy descendants of the immortal "chapel" of singers of the medieval Kings.

The Duke of Edinburgh read

the lesson from Ecclesiasticus, naturally the passage about praising famous men, and our fathers that begat us. The Bishop of London, Dr Ellison, Dean of the Chapel Royal, led the congregation in prayers for the Queen, for guidance, for wisdom, and "for our selves".

To date there have been 132 members of the order, the most eminent men of letters, art, science and war of our century. They have even occa-

sionally admitted statesmen, such as Churchill and Attlee, for distinction above and beyond the call of politics. Mr Harold Macmillan, who was there yesterday, is the only living statesman holder of the order, which has the advantage of recognizing merit without taking away from such reluctant recipients of honours the privilege of remaining commoners.

Apart from three Japanese military leaders somewhat

strangely given the OM in 1906, there have been only six honorary foreign members since 1902, including Marshal Foch and Joffre after the First World War, General Eisenhower after the Second World War, and Dr Albert Schweitzer.

Some pessimists persuade themselves that we live in an age of decline and demerit. Yesterday's congregation of holders of the OM proved them wrong.

SNP devolution campaign will be of general election proportions

From Ronald Faux

Edinburgh The Scottish National Party is to campaign for a "yes" vote in Scotland's devolution referendum with all the energy of a general election campaign. The party's strategy committee, which met for once last night, has decided to launch the tactical initiative in the argument over reshaping Scotland's political future, will meet tomorrow to consider how to mobilize the formidable party organization to campaign in favour of accepting the devolution Bill.

Many nationalists are distinctly cool towards the proposed assembly structure, which they feel is hardly relevant to the party's aim of independence.

Small revolt on 'guillotine'

In Thursday's division on "guillotine" there was a limited debate on the two devolution Bills. Labour MPs who voted against the Scottish guillotine measure were:

Mr Abse (Pontypool), Mr Cunningham (Dillingham), Mr Finsbury, Mr A. Evans (Caerphilly), Mr Garrett (Walsbrook), Mr Leadbitter (Hartlepool), Mr Moonman (Basslethorpe), Mr Mendelson (Penistone), Mr Phillips (Dudley, West).

Labour MPs who abstained were:

Mr Brown (Hackney, South and Shoreditch), Mr Ryan (Blythe), Mr Lewis (Newham North West), Mr Lomas (Huddersfield, West), Mr Spearman (Newham, South).

Tories back campaign against Front

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent The Conservative leadership has supported a campaign to take on the National Front head on. It was launched yesterday by the Federation of Conservative students with Mr Whitelaw, the party deputy leader and spokesman on home affairs, giving a warning against turning evilly disposed minorities into martyrs by seeking to ban views lawfully expressed.

Agreeing with the line taken by the students that the Front's arguments have to be exposed and answered by rational argument, he urged the party to take their campaign beyond the confines of universities, polytechnics and colleges. "Margaret Thatcher, my colleagues in the Shadow Cabinet and I pledge to you our full support," he said.

Speaking in the old theatre of the London School of Economics, which was decorated by anti-Front posters, he said: "We have a responsibility to help those in our society who face special disadvantages. This is not, as some people have argued, the same as giving an unfair amount of aid to certain groups."

"What we want, and must do, is to remove the extra disadvantages that certain groups labour under, so that they can start on a level with everyone else in our society. Once we have removed these extra disadvantages then there is no question of giving them at that point more help than the rest of the community. That would be unfair."

While insisting that there should be no concessions to racial or religious discrimination, he continued: "Nor must we treat arrogantly the genuine anxieties that many people feel about having to absorb in a relatively brief period of time people from very different cultures. I believe that there is no more certain way of driving people who are not racists into the arms of the National Front than by blandly pretending that genuine social problems do not exist."

His speech supported the inclusion of questions designed to identify people's ethnic origins in the next official census, so as to obtain a more accurate picture of the difficulties their communities face. Asked if the campaign would signal any change in the party's attitude towards immigration, he said he believed in firm and fair policies. But simply calling for an end to immigration was

deceptively easy.

It seems that the factions for and against the Bill are polarizing in Scotland into the socialists and trade unions versus the Tory Party and industry, with one camp in favour of the Bill in what is thought to be a stronger and more convincing position.

The SNP inevitably will be supporting a measure in which they feel is hardly relevant to the party's aim of independence.

Small revolt on 'guillotine'

In Thursday's division on "guillotine" there was a limited debate on the two devolution Bills. Labour MPs who voted against the Scottish guillotine measure were:

Mr Abse (Pontypool), Mr Cunningham (Dillingham), Mr Finsbury, Mr A. Evans (Caerphilly), Mr Garrett (Walsbrook), Mr Leadbitter (Hartlepool), Mr Moonman (Basslethorpe), Mr Mendelson (Penistone), Mr Phillips (Dudley, West).

Labour MPs who abstained were:

Mr Brown (Hackney, South and Shoreditch), Mr Ryan (Blythe), Mr Lewis (Newham North West), Mr Lomas (Huddersfield, West), Mr Spearman (Newham, South).

Tories back campaign against Front

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent The Conservative leadership has supported a campaign to take on the National Front head on. It was launched yesterday by the Federation of Conservative students with Mr Whitelaw, the party deputy leader and spokesman on home affairs, giving a warning against turning evilly disposed minorities into martyrs by seeking to ban views lawfully expressed.

Agreeing with the line taken by the students that the Front's arguments have to be exposed and answered by rational argument, he urged the party to take their campaign beyond the confines of universities, polytechnics and colleges. "Margaret Thatcher, my colleagues in the Shadow Cabinet and I pledge to you our full support," he said.

Speaking in the old theatre of the London School of Economics, which was decorated by anti-Front posters, he said: "We have a responsibility to help those in our society who face special disadvantages. This is not, as some people have argued, the same as giving an unfair amount of aid to certain groups."

"What we want, and must do, is to remove the extra disadvantages that certain groups labour under, so that they can start on a level with everyone else in our society. Once we have removed these extra disadvantages then there is no question of giving them at that point more help than the rest of the community. That would be unfair."

While insisting that there should be no concessions to racial or religious discrimination, he continued: "Nor must we treat arrogantly the genuine anxieties that many people feel about having to absorb in a relatively brief period of time people from very different cultures. I believe that there is no more certain way of driving people who are not racists into the arms of the National Front than by blandly pretending that genuine social problems do not exist."

His speech supported the inclusion of questions designed to identify people's ethnic origins in the next official census, so as to obtain a more accurate picture of the difficulties their communities face. Asked if the campaign would signal any change in the party's attitude towards immigration, he said he believed in firm and fair policies. But simply calling for an end to immigration was

deceptively easy.

It seems that the factions for and against the Bill are polarizing in Scotland into the socialists and trade unions versus the Tory Party and industry, with one camp in favour of the Bill in what is thought to be a stronger and more convincing position.

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BBC to implement £11m pay offer

By a Staff Reporter

The BBC has decided, "in the best interests of its 26,000 staff," to implement the £11m pay offer it made last month.

The offer, within the pay guidelines, represents 10 per cent on the corporation's annual pay bill, and increases in basic rates will range from 10.5 to 15 per cent. Certain minor improvements have been made.

It is understood the decision was made, although more money has been sought by the BBC's biggest staff union, the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs, in order to make the increases available by Christmas.

It applies to monthly-paid staff from October 1, to weekly and part-time clerical staff from August 7 and to catering staff from August 21.

In a statement the BBC said it was not denying any of the demands of the union, but it was not prepared to accept the offer of further negotiations on pay and conditions of employment. But it believed that it was important to pay the increases before Christmas.

Mr George Robertson, Labour Party chairman in Scotland, yesterday denounced the BBC's decision as a "cynical approach". If the Government had made the Commons guillotine motion on Wednesday an issue of confidence, he said, the BBC would have voted against it to force a general election. "We consider this an act of the gravest cynicism for a party that has declared itself strongly in support of devolution but would nevertheless seek to bring the Government down for short-term electoral advantage."

Mr Donald Watt, chairman of the Welsh Conservative Party, said his organization would continue to resist the measure.

Referendum concessions in exchange for MPs' votes

From Our Own Correspondent

Cardiff South Wales MPs opposed to devolution fell in line behind the Government's call for a guillotine on the Wales Bill after they had received assurances on the conduct of the referendum, it became clear yesterday.

They are understood to have indicated to Mr Foot their reluctance to vote with the Government unless ministers granted the same right to speak against devolution as they were during the EEC referendum.

The MPs also insisted that any statement asserting that Wales should remain part of the United Kingdom should be dropped from the introduction to the referendum. They regarded the assertion as contentious. They asked the Government to open negotiations on the possibility of a second referendum to seek the electorate's view on separatism.

The anti-devolution lobby within the Labour movement in

Leeds University might face £4m pay claim

By Our Education Correspondent

Leeds University would have to find between £3m and £4m more this year to meet the 25-30 per cent pay claim by the Association of University Teachers in full. That would be an additional 11-17 per cent on the university's £25m budget.

Lord Boyle of Handsworth, Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University and chairman of the University's Finance Committee, said the university would be faced with a "rapidly worsening financial position" if the settlement for academic salaries was more than 1 or 2 per cent above the 5 per cent allowed for salary inflation in the University Grants Committee's grant.

A parliamentary reply by Miss Jackson, Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, on Tuesday showed that if university teachers had been given the 20 per cent increase awarded by an independent tribunal from October, 1974, plus an allowance to cover the rise in cost of living since then, a lecturer's salary would be between £4,647 and £10,120 instead of the present £3,333 and £6,655.

A senior lecturer or reader's salary would be between £9,766 and £12,288 instead of £6,643 and £7,951; and the average professorial salary £14,860 instead of £9,489.

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Man in secrets case 'ferret, not skunk'

Duncan Campbell, aged 24, a freelance journalist, who faces charges under the Official Secrets Act, was "a ferret, not a skunk," Mr Geoffrey Robertson, his counsel, said at Toxteth Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday.

Mr Campbell, of Franklin Road, Brighton, appears with John Aubrey, aged 31, a reporter on Time Out magazine, of De Beauvoir Road, Hackney, London, and John Ashley Berry, aged 33, a former corporal with the Signals Regiment Intelligence Corps and now a social worker, of Alexandra Park Road, Wood Green, London.

Mr Campbell is charged with obtaining from Mr Berry information that might be useful to an enemy; receiving such information from him and similarly collecting information concerning defence communications. Mr Berry is charged with communicating information to Mr Campbell and communicating information to him while he held office under her Majesty; and Mr Aubrey is charged with aiding and abetting Mr Campbell to commit the offences contrary to the Official Secrets Act. Reporting restrictions have been lifted.

Mr Robertson said it was precisely because Mr Campbell was a journalist that he faced those charges. Section one of the Official Secrets Act was aimed at the skunk, spies and saboteurs. It had not been before used against a journalist.

Mr Robertson said there was no evidence that Mr Campbell had been in touch with a foreign power or that "his mind had ever entertained a disloyal fancy". Mr Campbell's purpose was to collect information as a background to his work as a journalist.

He had been invited by Time Out to interview Mr Berry, and although he might have received information that he knew to be contrary to the Official Secrets Act, section two offence, there was no evidence that he intended to publish the information he received.

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Woman stayed in bedroom 16 years

From Tim Jones

Abertillery The condition of a woman who stayed in her bare bedroom for 16 years before she died could not have been described in better terms by the victims of a Nazi concentration camp, Colonel Kenneth Treasure, the Glamorgan Coroner, said at an Abertillery inquest yesterday.

It was stated that before she died earlier this year Miss Unis Powell, aged 54, of Alma Street, weighed only 61 stone. She lay in a tiny dark bedroom, her skull exposed as one of her legs in her hair, and the house protruding through the flesh of her hip. There were traces of excrement on the floor and the windows were black with dirt. Her only light was a small torch.

Colonel Treasure, who recorded a verdict of death by hypostatic pneumonia, multiple pressure sores, a kidney disease and lack of care, said that he had come close to considering that there might have been cause to proceed with manslaughter charges against the woman's sister, Mrs

Jean Williams, and other members of her family.

Dr Rama Padagada, the family doctor, said that although he had visited members of the household for 40 or 45 times he had never been aware of the existence of Miss Powell.

"They are all of low intelligence, but Mrs Jean Williams seems the most responsible", he said.

Mrs Williams said that when their parents died in 1960 Miss Powell went to bed and would not get up. "She just wanted to lie there, saying her nerves were bad", she added. "We all got fed up with her; she was an awful woman. None of our family would see a doctor. It is as if they are frightened of them."

Port officials may not test foreign students

By Sue Reid, of The Times

Higher Education Supplement Immigration officials will not be empowered to test the academic ability of overseas students arriving in Britain, according to a confidential circular released by the Department of Education and Science and the Home Office.

The new circular distributed among government departments and interested organizations last month for comment, amends the controversial document on entry regulations prepared by the two departments last year.

It curtails powers originally proposed for immigration officials to test students at the port of entry and says colleges may be consulted "in cases of difficulty arising at ports".

Unlike last year's document, which provoked strong protest and was never released, the new circular says it is not the function of the immigration service to assess a student academically.

But it adds: "Immigration officials are required by law to be satisfied that the student is willing and able to follow a full-time course of study." That involved an assessment of his bona fides and his general documentation.

If the immigration authorities have serious doubts about the academic credentials of a student arriving in this country they will normally call for an independent academic assessment before reaching a decision on entry," the circular says. That would come from the polytechnic or college concerned although on occasions it might be necessary to get help from local assessors. The circular emphasizes that the final question of academic suitability lies with the college.

The circular is to offer new guidelines to local education authorities, polytechnics and colleges, the light of the Immigration Act 1971.

Lecturers attack 'McCarthyism'

By Our Education Correspondent

Teachers at the Open University have passed a resolution condemning the "McCarthyite techniques of smear and innuendo" used against university teachers by Professor Julius Gould in his recent report. The attack on higher education.

Professor Gould complained in his report that Marxist and "radical" thinkers had had a widespread and damaging influence on higher education in Britain. Professors and courses at the Open University are specifically mentioned several times.

Professor Gould said he believed that Open University students were particularly vulnerable to Marxist influence, since they worked largely alone and were greatly dependent on written course material.

There solution adopted by a majority of two to one at a meeting of about a hundred members of the Association of University Teachers, noted the union's council to take the scholars working in a Marxist and radical tradition had made a significant contribution to teaching and research in British universities.

"To inhibit work in this tradition would be an impoverishment of scholarship," the resolution states. It reaffirms that a "healthy university system requires that its teaching and research reflect a plurality of intellectual positions and approaches."

Mr James Ireland, chairman of the association's planning and transport committee, said: "The problem is not a transport problem, but the relief of poverty, a government responsibility that should be dealt with in pensions, taxation policies, and so on."

The association, in its response to a demand for a circular, said concessionary fares could help only where there was a reasonable network of bus services. They were of little value where the service was diminishing or disappearing.

Councils suggest fairer transport deal for disabled

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Higher pensions and allowances would be a much fairer way of helping the elderly, blind and disabled with transport difficulties, the Association of County Councils said yesterday.

The association told Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, that his proposals to extend concessionary fares would help only those elderly and handicapped people able to use public transport.

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The association urged the Government to take a general initiative to persuade transport operators and unions to accept concessionary fare schemes. In some areas, it said, it had been impossible to introduce such schemes even when they were supported by local authorities.

Concessionary fares had something to do with not authors' collecting "societies". The Society of Authors said: "We would have to study the jump-sum idea, first to see if it would work fairly, and second how much money would be involved."

New study of ways to run authors' public lending right

By Kenneth Gossling

A further technical investigation into possible methods of operating a public lending right (PLR) scheme for authors is to start shortly after the signing of a contract between the Department of Education and Science and the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, which will make the study.

The question whether authors should be paid for the use of their works by libraries has been under consideration for years. Efforts to get a measure through Parliament have failed.

However, the technical studies have continued. The latest, financed by a government grant of £50,000, is expected to be completed by the end of March.

Members of the study are studying the European Commission plan, reported in The Times yesterday, for a European public lending right, although the method proposed, a "lump sum" royalty to be distributed by writers' societies to their members, is expected to have a cool reception here.

Most support has been for a loan-sampling scheme, based on the number of times an author's work is borrowed. That is not favoured by the

commission, whose cultural spokesman, M Robert Gregoire, said it posed insuperable administrative difficulties.

Miss Maureen Duffy, chairman of the Writers' Guild and a member of the Writers' Action Group, said the commission's report appeared to arise from a study for the EEC cultural department from Dr Adolph Dietz, on member states' copyright Acts and ways of harmonizing them.

Señor Rodrigo on birthday visit to Britain at 75

By Martin Huckerby

Señor Joaquín Rodrigo, the blind Spanish composer, who wrote the most popular guitar concerto of all time, has arrived in Britain for a visit to celebrate his seventy-fifth birthday on November 22.

Although he does not play the guitar, his Concierto de Aranjuez for guitar and orchestra was an immediate success when it was first performed in Madrid in 1940. It recently gained the ultimate accolade of popularity when a "pop" arrangement of the lush theme from the slow movement reached the Top Twenty.

Señor Rodrigo said yesterday that when he first heard the pop version he was furious; now he is resigned.

The concerto helped to spur the modern revival of guitar music; for Señor Rodrigo showed that the instrument's relatively soft sounds can be successfully balanced against an orchestra.

Señor Rodrigo is a little regretful that his many technical achievements have achieved much less popular acclaim. He hopes that his recent Concierto Madrigal for two guitars may eventually gain similar success, but he has also written concerti for other instruments as well as more than sixty songs and madrigals.

He has been blind since childhood. He composes in braille and later dictates the music, which is then corrected by his wife, Victoria.

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HOME NEWS

Architect with an eye for landscapes is honoured as planner

By John Young
Planning Reporter

Sir Frederick Gibberd, one of the most inventive and versatile of twentieth-century British architects, has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Town Planning Institute, it was announced yesterday.

Sir Frederick, who will be 70 next January, is only the ninth recipient of the award since it was instituted in 1953. His predecessors include Sir Patrick Abercrombie, Mr Lewis Mumford, Lord Holford, Sir Frederick Osborn and Sir Colin Buchanan.

Among Sir Frederick's best known buildings are the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Liverpool, the Central London Mosque in Regent's Park, and the International Hotel at Hyde Park Corner. He also undertook the difficult and long delayed reconstruction of Courts Bank, in the Strand, behind the original Nash facade.

More controversially, he was responsible for the as yet uncompleted Kielder dam in Northumberland and for the terminal buildings at Heathrow. He says that, in the airports' early days, he voiced doubts about restricting expansion by placing the terminals within the intersections of the main runways, but was told that as the architect his job was to concentrate on the buildings.

It must have been a difficult pill to swallow, for Sir Frederick has always emphasised that architecture and planning are, or should be, inseparable. He became involved in town planning, he says, because of his convictions about the importance of the effect of buildings on their environment and vice versa.

It is as a planner that he is being honoured by the institute, and it is as a planner that he may well be longest remembered. His most outstanding achievement is probably Harlow



Sir Frederick Gibberd: Planned Harlow New Town

New Town, for which he prepared the master plan 30 years ago. He still lives in Harlow, opened the first office in the town centre and is closely involved in its continuing development.

His feeling for landscape as well as architecture helped to create a physical layout that is widely regarded as the most striking of all the new towns. He was also one of the pioneers of conservation and an outstanding advocate of the need for sensitive redevelopment in historic town centres; his achievements in places as diverse as Doncaster and Stratford on Avon, Banbury and Leamington, though not without their critics, have been widely commended.

With his luxuriant moustache and tweed suits, he conveys something of the character of a latter-day Edwardian country gentleman in the Elgar tradition. He lists his recreation as gardening to which might be added collecting English watercolours and, apparently, enjoying life.

Concern at effect of job scheme on grants

By Diana Geddes

Mr Norman St John-Steves, MP, opposition spokesman on education, and the National Union of Students have independently decided to call on the Government to set up a working party on discretionary awards for students.

Both are concerned about the effect of the proposed allowance of £18 a week for young people on the youth opportunities programme courses will have on other students in further education who are not eligible for mandatory grants. The National Union of Students, which lobbied MPs at Westminster yesterday, says that 300,000 students, or 90 per cent of full-time further education students on non-advanced courses, receive no grant at all. The other 10 per cent get a grant averaging £22.2 a week.

The union wants a government working party to lay down a framework for further education students to win parity with those receiving £18 a week under the youth opportunities programme. It also wants the Secretary of State for Education to propose legislation giving her enabling powers to designate more courses that would carry an entitlement to a mandatory student grant.

Mandatory grants are given for full-time or sandwich first-degree courses or for any course that has been officially designated as comparable to a first-degree course; for full or part-time initial teacher training courses; and for courses leading to higher national diplomas.

Disabled soldier's benefit suspension 'wrong, abrupt and arbitrary'

Ombudsman finds more complaints justified

By David Nicholson-Lord

Nearly half the complaints investigated by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman) from May to July have been upheld by him, a stable increase on the previous quarter and running well above the levels of last year.

Of the 64 complaints of maladministration investigated by the Ombudsman, Sir Idwal Fugh, 51 were upheld. That compares with 23 out of 77 in the quarter from February to April and an overall level of 43 per cent in 1976, itself a 6 per cent increase on the previous year.

Cases of maladministration brought to light in Sir Idwal's fifth report, for the 1976-77 parliamentary session, published yesterday, include that of a former soldier who suffered psychoneurosis after witnessing

the death of a young girl caught in crossfire between his unit and a group of terrorists, and left the Army as a result.

The incident took place in 1966, since when the report says, the individual's disability has meant that he has worked for a total of only three years. In October, 1976, his invalidity benefit was suspended without notice by the Department of Health and Social Security, leaving his wife without money to buy food for their three children.

Sir Idwal describes the decision by a local office as wrong, abrupt and arbitrary and adds that he fully sympathizes with the distress it caused. The department had since apologized and issued an invalidity order book.

As in previous reports, a high proportion of the complaints involve the DHSS and the Inland

Revenue. Twelve of the 21 claims against the Inland Revenue and nine of the 17 against the DHSS were wholly or partly upheld.

They include a pensioner suddenly faced with a bill for £167 underpayment of tax, accumulated solely because of Inland Revenue mishandling, and a former journalist, now in his seventies, who was presented with a bill for £896 because of the Inland Revenue's "consistent mishandling" of his affairs.

In a case involving the DHSS, a man suffered a stroke, which left him partially paralysed, and his doctor submitted an application for a special wheelchair.

Six months later he died. Two months after his death, however, his widow was sent two standard, identical letters from an artificial limb and appliance centre inquiring whether her husband was get

ting full benefit from a wheelchair lent for temporary use. The report describes the inquiries as inexcusable, although it adds that the department has now revised its procedures.

Two further cases refer to the Department of Transport's refusal to pay an "unqualified" objector at a road inquiry adequate expenses to cover his attendance, and a trained teacher who said he had been encouraged by Department of Education publicity to leave a job he had been in for 29 years to go to college, but was then unable to find employment in teaching.

In both instances, Sir Idwal expressed sympathy but comes down in favour of the government departments.

Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, Fifth Report for Session 1976-77 (Stationery Office, £2.60).

In brief

'Poor service' in supermarkets

Mrs Sally Oppenheim, opposition spokesman on prices and consumer protection, said yesterday that it was time to protest against poor service in supermarkets.

"Standards in this country are nowhere near United States levels", she said at the annual luncheon of the British Frozen Food Federation in London. "All too often over here one has to trail from one shop to another to find the most ordinary item in the make, size and variety that one wants."

Vets attack park ban on dogs

Plans by local authorities to ban dogs from parks and other public places because of the threat of *Toxocara canis*, a worm found in puppies that can infect people, were attacked by the British Veterinary Association yesterday.

It described the ban, which has been enforced at Burnley, Lancashire, as an overreaction.

Stop pampering, police chief says

Mr James Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, said yesterday that society must stop pampering those who bite the hands that feed them. He was giving a lecture at Preston Polytechnic.

"It is time we put people before political machinations, dubious principles and the new god of bureaucracy", he said.

£18,000 promise to Wordsworth appeal

From Our Correspondent

Grasmere. The trustees of Dove Cottage, Grasmere, where the main Wordsworth museum and library are housed, have been promised £18,000 by the Victoria and Albert Museum towards the money they need to enable them to buy the recently discovered Wordsworth and Coleridge manuscripts for the nation.

In July, Cornell University bought the hitherto unknown manuscripts, which include love letters between Wordsworth and his wife, at a Sotheby's auction for £38,500. Last week the Reviewing Com-

mittee on the Export of Works of Art, suspended the issue of an export licence for four months to enable a British institution to match the purchase price.

The Dove Cottage trustees launched a public appeal, with the help of a letter in *The Times* on November 12, to enable them to buy the manuscripts from Cornell before the extra time is up, on February 5.

Mr Jonathan Wordsworth, their chairman, said: "The Victoria and Albert has responded to our appeal by promising us £18,000 from one of the grant funds it administers. We are delighted of

course, and we feel sure that somehow now we shall be able to find the amount needed."

Cornell was open to an offer from Dove Cottage, but was not obliged to accept it. "They could keep the manuscripts in England", he said, "but we are hopeful that they will accept."

The trustees have already raised £85,000 this year towards repairs to Dove Cottage and construction of a new library. They have decided to broaden their base by including the manuscripts appeal under one big Wordsworth Heritage Appeal. For all three they will need about £200,000.

Heritage award gold medal for National Trust

The achievements of the National Trust have been recognized internationally with the award of the Johann Wolfgang von Goethe Gold Medal, which will be presented at a reception in London today (our Planning Reporter writes).

The FVS Foundation, of Hamburg, which has made the award, commends the trust for "the splendid example it has set for the whole of Europe in the conservation of the architectural heritage and landscape of the British Isles."

Most governments 'want air fares regulated'

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Cooperation rather than confrontation with the scheduled airlines was desirable in developing an acceptable structure of European fares, the Civil Aviation Authority has concluded after submissions to it over three days by airlines and other interested parties.

The hearings took place in London in January, and in a discussion document based on them published yesterday, the authority said that, although it might be argued that airlines should be allowed the same freedom of pricing as any other commercial enterprise, most governments had decided that air fares on scheduled services should be regulated.

"It is not possible for a major aviation country like the United Kingdom to stand aside, alone, from such a regulated environment," the authority said. It saw no reason in principle why the structure and levels of air fares should not closely reflect the costs of providing each kind of service offered by the airlines to the public.

Such a close relationship between fares and costs must surely be in the best interests of consumers, who should, so far as possible, pay the full cost, but no more, of providing the facilities they demanded.

It followed also that consumers should not be obliged to buy more elaborate facilities than they demanded and were willing to pay for.

One of the more sensational submissions to the hearings in January was that by the Airline Users' Committee to the effect that on the London-Málaga route there were 30

different fares, leading to confusion among travel agents and to high marketing and administration costs by airlines.

The discussion document commented: "It must be recognized that, in the real world, extreme simplicity will never be feasible." Provided they were related to costs, the use of seasonal pricing structures, off-peak and stand-by fares benefited the consumer.

The document was also largely dismissive of unworkable comparisons made at the hearings between European and United States airline fares and costs. The evidence did suggest that United States costs and fares were lower than those of British Airways, "although the differences were much smaller than is often suggested by crude comparison".

The authority was conscious of an unacceptable degree of cross-subsidisation between first-class and other fare categories. It intended to give further consideration to a practical solution to the problem, "including possible changes to the first-class product".

Among the scheduled airlines in Europe the regulatory system restricted entry, and there was no effective price competition for normal scheduled fares. The user of normal, rather than charter, fares was therefore denied effective choice and was at risk of being charged more than the cost of the service he used.

The regulatory authority, which has power to restrict competition in this way, must therefore ensure that this does not occur.

European Air Fares: a discussion document (Civil Aviation Authority, PO Box 41, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, £4.75).

Appeal for more arts broadcasts

Sir Claus Moser, chairman of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, appealed yesterday for urgent Arts Council action to ensure widespread broadcasting of the performing arts on television and radio (our Music Reporter writes).

"It is the whole question of arts for the people. We want to perform to millions", he said.

Annual report, page 12

Analysis of shop stewards

The department of adult Education at Hull University is examining the motivation, characteristics and experience of shop stewards in British industry.

Six companies and the Transport and General Workers' Union have agreed to cooperate in the three-year project.

Raymond Aron

David Walker talks to Raymond Aron. Judith Judd interviews Asa Briggs, and Laurie Taylor plays the Marxist, in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today.

Corrections

Mr R. M. Lewis, who was described as Chief Probation Officer for Kent in an article on Marxists in higher education on Tuesday, is senior probation officer.

The Morning Star is not £185,000 in debt as stated on Monday, but has a projected deficit of that amount for next year. A proposed price increase from January 3, 1978, is expected to yield £154,000 extra income.

Sentences on youths who attacked soldiers

Fourteen young men and youths who sought out soldiers in order to attack them were sentenced at the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday. They pleaded guilty to various charges of unlawful assembly, assault and robbery.

Judge Argyle, QC, said: "This case arises out of a series of incidents of violence that took place in Surrey."

"They involved organized gangs of young men in motor cars going around seeking out persons they thought or believed to be soldiers and attacking them, beating them up and in some cases robbing them."

Mr Christopher Purchas, for the prosecution, said that the group looked for men with short hair, but twice their victims were students. Three other victims were Territorial Army soldiers. All were knocked to the ground, kicked and punched while they lay helpless.

Stephen Clark, aged 23, of Tongham, Surrey, was jailed for two years. Keith White, aged 20, and David Brewer, aged 18, were jailed for six months.

Gordon Powell, aged 20, Brian, aged 19, and Alan Williams, aged 19, were sent to borstal.

Mark Atkins, Stephen White, and David Boniface, all aged 18, were sent to a detention centre for six months.

A boy aged 16 was sent to a detention centre for six months and another for three months. A boy aged 17 was put on probation for two years and two aged 15 received two-year supervision orders.

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If your time increasingly is spent in the day-to-day running of your business, you may be neglecting one of its most important aspects—the future.

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Making sure that a family business stays in the family is more than a matter of building up assets. Capital Transfer Tax and income tax have to be contended with. There's the problem of providing adequate funds for your pension, for your family on your death, and to cope with CTT payments. It's also important to review your commercial and industrial insurance policies regularly to make sure that they're keeping pace with your company's growth.

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If you go it alone, you'll find it costs you time and money.

A call to the manager of your local branch of Lloyds will put you in touch with specialists in one of our Trust Division branches, located throughout the country, who can help you:

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How much does it cost?

We can't tell you until we've met. Our initial advice is free and our help could cost you nothing. If you ask us to prepare a detailed plan, we may ask for a reasonable fee depending on the circumstances.

But if you want to keep your family business in the family it's worth taking the trouble to call in and see us.



Lloyds Bank

PARLIAMENT, November 17, 1977

Mistake admitted over suspected terrorist who was allowed to leave UK: false passport used

House of Commons

It was by mistake, not by design, that a man, said by a Conservative MP to be the suspected murderer of three prominent North Yemenis in London, and an alleged participant in the Mogadishu hijacking, was allowed to re-enter Britain after being deported and then allowed to leave again, Mr. Merlyn Rees, Home Secretary, said.

Mr. Jonathan Aitken (East Thanet, C) had asked if he was satisfied with his department's contingency plans and measures for dealing with terrorist activity.

Mr. Rees (Leeds, South, Lab)—These are kept under continuous review in the light of intelligence and other information regarding terrorist activity.

Mr. Aitken—Would Mr. Rees consider having talks with representatives of the media to try to establish a voluntary code of conduct about the way these terrorist episodes are sometimes publicized?

Mr. Rees—The whole of the recent German commando raid on the Mogadishu airport had been seriously put at risk by the disclosure of the details of the operation to the press. It was a serious matter, and the Government was concerned about the disclosure of the details of the operation to the press.

Mr. Rees—There is no doubt that when such an incident arises there are problems in general with the media. All I can say with regard to that is, yes, I will do more.

Mr. Charles Fletcher-Cooke (Darwen, C)—Will he say some-

thing about his recent meetings with the ministers of the interior of the EEC? Is it right that those ministers meet regularly? Is he satisfied with the degree of harmonization of administrative arrangements, as well as those of the signature and ratification of the conventions, to deal with this urgent problem?

Mr. Rees—There are various methods of cooperation between countries, particularly within the EEC. It is right that those ministers meet regularly. Is he satisfied with the degree of harmonization of administrative arrangements, as well as those of the signature and ratification of the conventions, to deal with this urgent problem?

Mr. Rees—There are various methods of cooperation between countries, particularly within the EEC. It is right that those ministers meet regularly. Is he satisfied with the degree of harmonization of administrative arrangements, as well as those of the signature and ratification of the conventions, to deal with this urgent problem?

I see in the newspapers from time to time that I am accused of being devious. There is no clever stuff about me.

He was using a false passport. Mr. Rees said that a mistake had been made. But it certainly was not made by design. An error was made. I have said it now and I hope he is satisfied.

Mr. Rees asked the Home Secretary if he was satisfied with the circumstances in which the man, Youssif Akache, was allowed to leave the country on or about April 10, 1977.

Mr. Rees, in a written reply, said—The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis has established that Akache, against whom warrants of arrest have been issued for the murder of three Yemeni Arab Republic subjects in London, April 10, 1977, left the country that afternoon. He left through Heathrow airport, using a Kuwaiti passport in the name of Ahmed Badir Al-Majid.

Soon after the murders had been committed, the police and the immigration authorities were alerted by the descriptions of the suspect provided to the police by the Yemeni Arab Republic. The police were instructed to enable Akache to be identified and apprehended. It was not until the following day that urgent and painstaking police inquiries provided evidence linking Akache with these crimes.

Mr Rees willing to see if law can be tightened to tackle child pornography

Mr. Merlyn Rees, the Home Secretary, said he was looking at the problem of child pornography to whether there were any aspects in which the law needed to be strengthened before the Home Office Committee completed its wider review of obscenity.

He said he shared the revulsion of most people at the use of children pornography. His information so far did not reveal a significant problem with which the law could be tightened.

Mr. Richard Luce (Shoreham, C)—There is widespread public anxiety about the long-term effects upon a child of coming across child pornography. Equally, one such example is the exploitation of children in the production of pornographic material.

This is an area upon which Mr. Rees could take urgent and immediate action rather than refer it to the Home Office Committee which has been established to review the laws of obscenity.

Mr. Rees (Leeds, South, Lab)—That is precisely what I am doing. The Home Office Committee is the long-term approach.

I am quite prepared to look at it. But I am advised by the Director of Public Prosecutions that offences which might not be caught by existing legislation could be covered by it.

And in that small amount which I am looking at, there are real problems. It is not a matter of simply drawing up a list of offences and then trying to enforce it. It is a matter of trying to ensure that the law is effective.

Mr. Robert Macdonald (Brentwood, C)—Even for those of us who take a fairly liberal view of what people say and do in private,

there is a special responsibility to protect minors in this loose area.

On pornography, the need for us to extend protection often stems from the fact that children are put in pornographic films and literature sometimes with the approval of their parents.

Mr. Rees—He is right on the last point.

I have no liberty on this; it is wrong and ought to be dealt with by Mr. George Rodgers (Chorley, Lab)—Is Mr. Rees satisfied with the level of psychiatric treatment for people who are convicted of child pornography?

Mr. Rees—When I have made inquiries before I have found that people who are mentally ill in prison—and that is something we ought to do something about—there is no reason to think there are people mentally ill in this respect. I will look at it.

Mr. William Whitelaw, Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Penny and the Border, C)—There is widespread support for Mr. Rees's decision that if action has to be taken it will be taken in advance of the Home Office Committee's report. Mr. Rees does find it necessary to make any amendment to the law, this House would be ready to support it.

Mr. Rees—With regard to the short term, I sometimes get letters from people who miss one point—that if they have an actual sample of pornography from shop or something they should go to the police with it. The police are the best people to deal with it. Under the law, they do it in different ways in different parts of the country as it is the responsibility of the chief constable concerned.

Income tax rebates should begin to be paid next week: problems in self-assessment

Mr. Robert Sheldon, Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Ashington, Lab), moved the second reading of the Finance (Income Tax) Bill to give effect to the increased personal tax relief announced by the Chancellor in his recent statement and the exemption from income tax for the year 1977-78 of any general increase in social security and other pensions and allowances.

He said that the important factor in the last few months had been the large increase in confidence in the United Kingdom. There had been an associated and unexpected increase in the financial future of the country.

In October last year there was a minimum lending rate of 15 per cent. Today it is at 5 per cent. The lowest since 1972. There was a falling rate of inflation. It was 13 per cent for that quarter, and was continuing to fall. The prices of materials and fuels were lower than in January.

Official reserves were at the unparalleled amount of \$20,000 million and the balance of payments was in surplus. This was going to be more than £250 million in surplus as opposed to the deficit of £1,400 million last year.

The strategy of which this particular Finance Bill formed a part was to achieve a more rapid recovery in production, improvement of living standards and the increase in employment prospects.

Within that total strategy, there was a need to ensure that the tax system was fair and equitable. It was going to be a matter of ensuring that the tax system was fair and equitable.

Mr. Rees—The Bill makes a modest advance in using the opportunities presented to us to reduce the tax burden. It is a small step, the importance of which is indicated more by the direction in which the Government are proceeding rather than the actual relief.

Mr. Peter Rees, an Opposition spokesman on finance and economy (Dover, C)—The Bill is a small step, the importance of which is indicated more by the direction in which the Government are proceeding rather than the actual relief.

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encouraging that a group of civil servants, sufficient to agree to attend their union meetings in large numbers and at short notice, felt on balance they were able to live with the situation. The Treasury hoped that the repayments would be made according to the timetable put to the House.

This would mean a refund of £20 to the single person and £35 for the married person and a further £50 a week for the Government's hope that they would be able to continue on this basis.

As the tax paid by the average man was reduced in real terms so it was going to reduce the poverty trap. The Government's hope that they would be able to continue on this basis.

To bring the tax on beer to the same level it was in 1968, there would need to be an increase in the duties of 31.5 pence. To bring spirits to the same level in real terms as in 1968, there would have to be an increase of about 70 pence. Tobacco duties would have to be increased by 36.2 pence.

But as a result of their failure to realize indirect taxation, this had meant a move towards higher taxation and lower indirect taxation.

The future intention of the Inland Revenue was to try to achieve the twin aims of efficiency, and, where possible, simplification.

Efficiency was largely a matter for the Inland Revenue, but simplification was much more the responsibility of the Commons.

He and the Inland Revenue had been concerned with the matter of self-assessment, but it would be wrong to assume that this was a matter of simple simplification. In the United States, which had such a system, the personal tax system was extremely complicated. It was not a matter of simple simplification.

There was nothing for the 1,400,000 higher rate taxpayers, nothing for the middle management. Even the highest rate bands had not been indexed. There was nothing for the retired living on a pension, nothing for the business of cutting direct taxation.

their financial and taxation policies.

I feel the country will recognize (he said) there is a vast difference between this country and others in one major and significant respect—the rate of direct taxation by Labour administrations.

The Chancellor had spoken of a budget of reward. It was apparently reward for years of sacrifices under a Labour administration.

I do not think we want to be rewarded (he said). We would prefer to go without the sacrifices and stay with the rates of taxation which have been achieved under a Conservative administration.

Most people would get the relief proposed by the Chancellor before Christmas, but could anything be done to help the few million people with mortgages who were not to be recorded before early next year?

To restore the real value of personal allowances in 1973-74, the last year of the Conservative administration, would cost about £1,400 million. The real value of the allowances would be £1,562 compared to £1,455.

Even people on the average industrial wage were paying a higher proportion of their reduced earnings in direct taxation than they ever had under a Conservative administration. The political and economic truth and the country would not be fobbed off by the glib explanations of the Prime Minister.

There was nothing for the 1,400,000 higher rate taxpayers, nothing for the middle management. Even the highest rate bands had not been indexed. There was nothing for the retired living on a pension, nothing for the business of cutting direct taxation.

Unions say: 'If you give to firemen you will give to us'

Other trade unions had sent a message saying bluntly: 'If you give to firemen you will give to us'. Mr. Merlyn Rees, the Home Secretary, said during questions about the firemen's strike. The Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Millan) and himself, he added, had told representatives of both sides of the National Joint Council for local fire brigades that they were ready to meet them at any time.

In the exchanges, Mr. Anthony Durant (Reading, South, C) said that in his constituency in the last two months two firemen had been killed and two awarded bravery honours for rescuing people from the Thames.

From my talking to picket lines late last night, the way one believes they are looking for some way out of the dilemma. Cannot he make some small offer, like 2.5 per cent over, as the Ford workers were given, in order that we can get this strike over?

Mr. Rees—He is suggesting 2.5 per cent over the 10 per cent would be the dispute. I do not think he is speaking on behalf of the Fire Brigades Union. It is easy to suggest ways in which it could be done. I am not going into the matter, which is basically important to the interests of the future of this country. There is more to the discussions than that.

Of course the Government are concerned about it, but under the negotiating procedures laid down by the local authorities and the Fire Brigades Union are talking together.

To suggest these ways of doing

it, as if only I would suggest them and the dispute would be over, is to ignore the realities of the situation.

Mr. Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab)—There is deep and spreading sympathy for this strike. The Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Millan) and himself, he added, had told representatives of both sides of the National Joint Council for local fire brigades that they were ready to meet them at any time.

Mr. Rees—I would be last to say that there is not a high regard for the work of the firemen.

Mr. Durant—If you give to the firemen, you will give to the rest of the country. So when one talks about special cases, if every other union would say the Fire Brigades Union is a special case, it would be a different matter. But that is not the situation we are in.

Mr. Ian Lloyd (Havant and Waterlooville, Lab)—The Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Millan) and himself, he added, had told representatives of both sides of the National Joint Council for local fire brigades that they were ready to meet them at any time.

Mr. Rees—On blocking the use of transistors, that is an evil thing to do and who is doing it is not known. I think it would be wrong to say that it is a member of the Fire Brigades Union.

The soldiers are not trained to

use sophisticated equipment and it is idle to pretend that they could use it. When it comes to the use of masks, we have been considering this. They are not things that one can use just by coming to the front and wearing them. They are complicated.

We have a trained Services group of people who can be protected in that way and can be used in that way.

The Services group is being used because of a lack of the Fire Brigades Union is just not true.

Mr. Durant—The longer this strike lasts, the more money it will cost. Will he acknowledge that he can give a number of men and a tank to the N.J.C. even though it is a Tory controlled body, in order to see that the situation is not a disaster? The longer this strike lasts, the more money it will cost. Will he acknowledge that he can give a number of men and a tank to the N.J.C. even though it is a Tory controlled body, in order to see that the situation is not a disaster?

Mr. Rees—There is one point about the 10 per cent. It is a marginal case, but they are not there to deal with fire that they are not trained for and do not have the equipment to deal with. It is not a matter of giving them a tank and a number of men. It is a matter of giving them the equipment they need.

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long time. In my view it is to discuss the whole of the situation available to the troops? They are being asked to undertake a dangerous and difficult job.

We accept what the Home Secretary has said. There are certain parts of the equipment which cannot be used without training. Whether that goes for all the equipment, particularly the breathing equipment?

Mr. Callaghan—Yes, most certainly. It is not a matter of giving them a tank and a number of men. It is a matter of giving them the equipment they need.

Mr. Rees—No, I will not do that because they are not trained to use it. It is a matter of giving them the equipment they need.

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Race Relations Act needed to protect minorities

The Race Relations Act was necessary to protect minorities from discrimination on the grounds of colour or race, Mr. Nicholas Budgen (Wolverhampton, South-West, C), during the second reading of the bill, said. One of the greatest problems in urban areas is the acceptance of mass immigration.

Mr. Budgen said that the bill was necessary to protect minorities from discrimination on the grounds of colour or race. He said that the bill was necessary to protect minorities from discrimination on the grounds of colour or race.

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Variations in prosecutions for shoplifting

The Home Office is to study the reasons for variations in prosecutions for shoplifting, Mr. Shirley Summerskill, Home Secretary, said.

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Payments on account to shipbuilding firms

The Government intended to authorize a payment on account for all nationalized shipbuilding firms during January in the light of a preliminary view of its likely negotiating position, Lord Waterbottom, Lord of the Admiralty (East Kent, Lab), said during questions.

Lord Waterbottom—There is an important matter to be decided by the Government which is not the case of a payment on account. It is a matter of deciding whether to pay a payment on account or not.

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Home Secretary praised for banning SS men

Mr. Merlyn Rees, the Home Secretary, has been praised for his decision to ban members of the British far right from making speeches at the annual conference of the British National Party (BNP) in London.

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Timetable on Wales Bill carried by 27

As reported in later editions of The Times yesterday, Mr. John Smith, Minister of State, Privy Council Office, moving the timetable for the Wales Bill, said it was the general intention of the Government to proceed with the Welsh Bill first.

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Move to control disguised business transactions

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Next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Debates on industrial relations; Tuesday and Wednesday: Progress in committee on Scotland Bill; Thursday: European Assembly Elections Bill; Friday: Private members' motions on North Sea oil; the problems of the steel industry; and the problems of the steel industry.

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EEC inquiry into supply of fish to Soviet ships

The European Commission is to conduct an inquiry into how Russian mother ships in Community waters are being supplied with fish by vessels flying the British flag.

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Opportunity for closer trade links with China

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WEST EUROPE

Commission abandons hopes for move to early monetary union

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Nov 17
Hopes of winning the support of the Nine for a rapid move towards a single European currency, the pooling of national reserves and the setting-up of a central monetary authority have been abandoned by the European Commission.

Instead, in a document to be discussed next week by finance ministers and by heads of government at next month's summit meeting, the Commission recommends a five-year preparatory period of gradual economic convergence and a tightening of existing monetary disciplines.

"At the end of five years we may be in a position to launch a more ambitious plan," Signor Renaldo Siggler, the Commission's chief spokesman, said here today.

In the meantime the Commission wants heads of government to review annually the progress made in implementing the five-year preparatory programme.

The new proposals represent a defeat for those within the Commission, among them one-time Mr Roy Jenkins, its president, who had argued that a bold move towards monetary union could provide the answer to high inflation and chronic unemployment within the EEC.

An attempt to reconcile this view with the gradualism favoured by M. Francois-Xavier Ortoli, the Commissioner in charge of Economic Affairs, was already evident in Mr Jenkins's speech last month to the European University Institute in Florence.

The Ortoli approach prevails in the document that has been agreed. Even in this watered-down form, however, the Commission's proposals are radical enough to frighten off many governments, including the British.

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in dismissing any chances of significant progress towards economic and monetary union. The Commission's five-year "action programme" aims in part at greater coordination of the short-term management of national economies, a "return to greater cohesion in European currencies" and the creation of new facilities to finance common regional, industrial and energy policies.

The Commission wants to see much faster progress towards a unified market with the emphasis on fiscal harmonization, especially of indirect taxes, the free circulation of goods and services, and the removal of controls on the movement of capital within the EEC.

Under the Treaty of Accession Britain has an obligation to permit freedom of capital movement from the beginning of next year. Treasury officials are, however, seeking an extension of Britain's exemption from this requirement, particularly as it affects direct investment abroad and personal capital transfers.

Mr Jenkins and his fellow commissioners also want a vigorous renewed attack on structural and social problems in industry. This would comprise rationalization of declining sectors hit by recession, such as textiles, steel and shipbuilding, with the promotion of growth areas, such as energy, telecommunications, computers, electronics and aeronautics.

For the rest, the Commission's document rehearses many of the economic arguments for monetary union, advanced by Mr Jenkins in Florence. These include the boost to business confidence that might come from freeing intra-EEC trade from exchange rate risks and the rationalization of declining sectors hit by recession, such as textiles, steel and shipbuilding, with the promotion of growth areas, such as energy, telecommunications, computers, electronics and aeronautics.

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Surprised by early snow in Germany, Swabian shepherds drive their flock into winter stables.

Croissant handover denied defence time to act

Continued from page 1

to decide on a stay of execution. But until this was agreed, the Government had every right to proceed with the extradition and that is what happened.

At 8.45 pm a closely-guarded line of cars left La Santé prison, passing a group of left-wing lawyers protesting in favour of Herr Croissant.

The cars sped on to Strasbourg, where a diversion of a light aircraft was kept warming up at a rarely used airstrip just outside Paris at Comblanchette.

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Swiss author accuses materialist society

From Patricia Clough

Hamburg, Nov 17
A challenge to Europe's materialist society was made today by Mr Max Frisch, the Swiss writer. He asked the West German Social Democratic Party congress in Hamburg whether that society should not blame itself for terrorism, extremism, drug addiction and resignation among its youth.

"What does this society have to offer its young, except care-free consumption of goods necessary for economic growth, what goals does it offer beyond themselves, what meaning for existence?"

Herr Frisch is one of many progressive intellectuals whose sometimes uncomfortable opinions and collaboration are encouraged by the Social Democrats. His much applauded speech struck closer than those of professional politicians to the core of what is a central problem in West Germany today.

"How innocent are we of the return of terrorism, or rather how guilty? How much scope is given to this generation to shape its own epoch together with its fathers? Hippies, dropouts, drug addiction, self-destruction and the theoretical

extremism of some university students were signs of a longing to give a new meaning to life.

"They are expected to submit. What remains is, in extreme cases, a resignation bound up with their careers which loss of faith and the consequent loss of themselves cannot remove... and the paranoia of the terrorist."

What was needed, Herr Frisch said, was greater democracy and a political life that would help people to be more human and create better values in life than the "battle for profit."

Nuclear debate: Leaders of the Social Democrats today pleaded with party delegates not to block the expansion of nuclear energy in West Germany.

Replying to demands from anti-nuclear delegates for a total halt to the construction of new nuclear plants, Dr Hans Apel, the Minister of Finance, told the congress: "Economic growth will need more energy."

A delegate from the industrial Ruhr said that only nuclear plants could produce the large amounts of energy West Germany needed to retain its international position as a steel producer.—Reuter.

German editor says terrorist threat enhanced unity

By Roger Berthoud

Recent events in West Germany had produced a new feeling of national togetherness, Dr Theo Sommer, the editor-in-chief of the liberal weekly newspaper *Die Zeit*, of Hamburg, said in London yesterday.

There had been an overdue indifference with the Federal Republic which amounted to an act of recognition of the realities, he said, and the Government coalition had been welded together.

Dr Sommer was very optimistic about West Germany's basic stability. He felt the terrorists were a "bloody nuisance" rather than a threat to the country's structure. There were only about 100 of them, and half of them had been apprehended.

As for the future stability of Herr Schmidt's Government, he saw a possible threat only from the four *Land* elections, next year, in Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Hesse and Bavaria.

If the Christian Democrats won Lower Saxony and Hesse, they could block any government legislation in the Bundestag, the Upper House. This could force the Free Democrats, at present in Government with the Social Democrats, to turn to the Opposition Christian Democrats in order to break the log jam.

But the odds against that were long, he thought. Even if it happened, it would be—if anything—a sign that the Federal Republic had the maturity to accommodate change without disruption.

British suspected of fishing for Russians

From David Wood

Strasbourg, Nov 17
The EEC Commission suspects that British trawlers are supplying mother ships of the Soviet trawler fleet with fish and thereby outflanking the new fishing controls in the North Sea.

Mr Gundelach, Commissioner for Agriculture and Fisheries, said in the European Parliament today that the Russians had accepted EEC rules as the EEC had been obliged to accept theirs.

The fact remained that Russian mother ships were still in EEC waters off the British coast and "it is a matter of concern to the Commission how they are being provided with raw material."

He posed the question whether they were being supplied by trawlers sailing in Community waters under the British flag. He raised the possibility that the Soviet-EEC agreement to achieve a genuine balance of fishing interests might be undermined by trawling activities breaching EEC policy.

Mr Clayton writes: The British Fishing Federation said: "There is no secret about this. It is a perfectly straightforward commercial arrangement. If Mr Gundelach is trying to read something sinister into this it is ridiculous."

Pelagic fish, that is species that swim near the surface such as herring and mackerel, have been sold by British vessels to processing vessels from Russia, East Germany and Poland. The dealings do not concern the more expensive and politically sensitive varieties of white fish such as cod.

Torshavn, Faroe Islands: The home rule government of the Faroe Islands has introduced new restrictions on British trawlers operating off its coast in response to Britain's total ban on herring fishing in July.

An area where British vessels have been forbidden to fish has been extended by four miles. Parliamentary report, page 6

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Rabies found in Swiss deer park

From Our Correspondent

Geneva, Nov 17
More than 1,000 people, mostly children, have been given anti-rabies vaccinations in Lausanne after two antelopes and a goat at a local deer park were found to have rabies. Mass vaccination was ordered for all school classes which visited the park recently.

Switzerland's third rabies death this year occurred last weekend. The victim was a 33-year-old trainer of huskies who had been preparing for an Arctic expedition.

He lived near Lausanne and had been bitten two months ago by one of the dogs which subsequently died. He did not report the bite until he became ill.

Editor victim of vulnerable city

From Peter Nichols

Rome, Nov 17
The condition of Signor Carlo Casalegno, deputy editor of the Turin newspaper *La Stampa*, who was shot yesterday by terrorists, was tonight said to be slightly better.

Journalists throughout the country staged a two-hour strike in protest at the attack and factory, shop and office staff in Turin stopped work for an hour.

Six journalists have so far been wounded by terrorists but the attack on Signor Casalegno was the first quite clearly intended to kill the victim. A constructive critic of the democratic system, he was frank about its shortcomings but believed that with an effort democracy could be made to work. Presumably this was one of the reasons why he was attacked.

It is difficult not to feel that he suffered because he works in Turin, the city which more than any other sums up the country's problems. With the Fiat works as its dominating economic interest, it represents the one real height of private capitalism in Italy.

It is no coincidence that Signor Casalegno's neighbour, in hospital is the latest Fiat executive to have been wounded by terrorists.

The city is also vulnerable because it has suffered worse than any other from the consequences of a huge immigration from the surrounding countryside and from the south. Its normal municipal services are strained beyond the limit.

Turin is due to stage the trial of Signor Renato Curcio, leader of Red Brigades terrorist organization. As a result, the chairman of the Turin lawyers' association has been murdered.

The Ministry of the Interior has decided to reinforce the police in the city but it is difficult to see what this will achieve unless the new men are highly trained in the fields of political terrorism and of violent crime.

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France tightens measures against drunk drivers

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Nov 17
Road deaths in France have decreased by 20 per cent in the past five years, despite a 30 per cent increase in traffic. The drop is attributed to lower speed limits and the compulsory use of seat belts.

M. Christian Bonnier, the Minister of the Interior, told the Cabinet yesterday that in the past 12 months 13,000 people were killed on the roads compared with 17,000 in 1972.

"In view of the increase in traffic, the risk of a fatal accident has dropped by 40 per cent," he said.

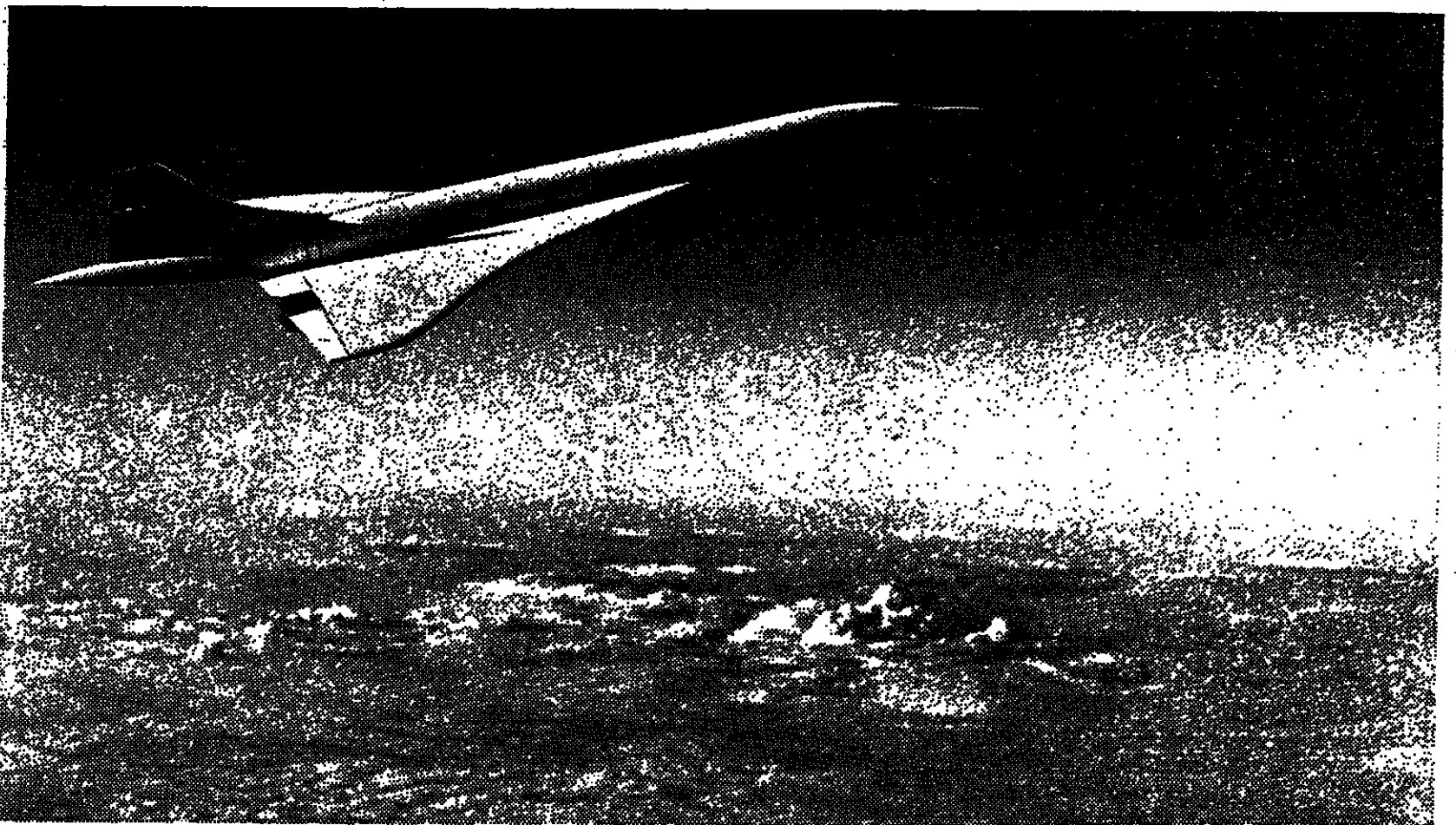
The Cabinet approved a Bill increasing penalties for drunken driving and fixing a

legal limit on the amount of alcohol permissible in a driver's blood, even when not guilty of a traffic offence or involved in an accident.

The Minister of Justice produced evidence to show that 4 per cent of all drivers were drunk at the wheel and that 40 per cent of all fatal accidents in France were caused by alcohol.

President Giscard d'Estaing said that the first duty of a modern state was to protect the lives of its citizens and ensure their security. "All Frenchmen also have a duty to demonstrate, by their behaviour on the roads, their sense of responsibility and fellow feeling for others," he said.

Paris-New York in 3½ hours. Daily from 22nd November.



Now you can make your reservation for a 4-hour Headstart on the rest of the world. November 22nd marks the debut of daily supersonic service between Paris and New York. The Headstart Flight leaves Roissy at 11 a.m. and arrives at J.F.K. Airport in New York at 8:30 a.m. local time. You'll arrive in New York refreshed and relaxed, four valuable hours faster than by any other flight, right at the start of a full business day. You'll cross the Atlantic in a mere 3½ hours aboard incomparable Concorde, surpassing the sun for speed. The precious gift of Air France is to make the most of your precious time.

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OVERSEAS

Counsel at Biko inquest ready to call minister as witness to prove a cover-up by police

From Nicholas Ashford
Pretoria, Nov 17

The inquest into the death of Steve Biko, the South African black consciousness leader, took a dramatic turn this afternoon when counsel for the Biko family, Mr Sydney Kentridge, said he was prepared to call Mr James Kruger, the Minister of Police, if necessary to show there had been a "cover-up" by the security police about how Mr Biko died.

Mr Kentridge said that "factually incorrect statements" made by Mr Kruger after Mr Biko's death could only have been based on information supplied by Colonel Piet Goosen, head of the Eastern Cape security police, who gave evidence throughout today's hearing.

He argued that the only reason Colonel Goosen could have for passing on such information to his superiors would be if he had something to hide. The whole chain of information from Colonel Goosen to Mr Kruger, therefore, had to be investigated, including calling Mr Kruger to give evidence if necessary, he added.

After Mr Biko's death in police custody on September 12 Mr Kruger made a number of press statements in which he said that Mr Biko had been on a hunger strike and had been fed intravenously. However, Mr Kentridge said that these statements had been shown by the evidence and affidavits before the court to be "completely unfounded".

"It is absolutely clear that the minister was misled", Mr Kentridge went on. "Two questions now arise. Where did the cover-up start, and how high did it go? If we have answers to these it will tell us a great deal about what happened to Biko while in the custody of Colonel Goosen."

Mr Kentridge raised the possibility of calling the minister to give evidence after a dispute arose when he tried to put to Colonel Goosen part of a press statement issued by Mr Kruger on September 3. Colonel Goosen agreed that there were serious factual errors in the statement but said there was no evidence that it had in fact been made by Mr Kruger.

On the first day of the hearing Mr Kentridge had asked that a bulky file of reported press statements by Mr Kruger

should be admitted as evidence. His application was opposed today by counsel representing the police, Mr P. R. Van Rooyen.

Counsel for the district surgeon who examined Mr Biko before his death, Mr R. Pickard, and Mr K. Van Lierse, the Deputy Attorney-General of the Transvaal, also objected. The magistrate, Mr M. J. Prins, said he would give a ruling on the matter tomorrow.

At the start of today's proceedings there was a clash between counsel for the police and counsel for the Biko family when Mr Van Rooyen queried the relevance of some of Mr Kentridge's questions to the security police. Mr Van Rooyen accused him of waging a "vendetta" against the security police.

During today's hearing the court was told that Mr Biko had never been allowed out of a public cell between August 18 and September 6, had not gone to the toilet for days on end and that his family was not informed when his condition was considered to be serious enough to warrant transferring him from Port Elizabeth to Pretoria.

Mr Fraser refuses questions on land deals

Melbourne, Nov 17.—Mr Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, today stormed out of a press conference here refusing to answer questions about allegations that Mr Phillip Lynch, the Federal Treasurer, was involved in highly profitable land deals.

Mr Fraser called the press conference to attack a policy speech for the December 10 general election just delivered by Mr Gough Whitlam, the Labour Party leader, but reporters were more interested in asking about Mr Lynch's future.—Agence France-Press.

Our Melbourne Correspondent writes: Mr Whitlam launched his seventh election campaign today but his speech is less likely to benefit Labour than the controversy over Mr Lynch's alleged property dealings.

While Mr Whitlam was speaking at the Sydney Opera House and later on television, Mr Lynch was in hospital outside Melbourne, his future clouded after allegations in the Victoria Parliament earlier this week that he had made substantial profits from land deals involving the Liberal Party and land developers and



Mr Whitlam launches the Australian Labour Party's election campaign with a speech at the Sydney Opera House.

that he had bought a penthouse with the proceeds.

Mr Lynch is recovering from a kidney operation and still has made no statement although it was believed that he had a document detailing his personal finances handed to the Prime Minister today. The affair is unlikely to do the Liberal Party much good.

Since the Liberals gained power it has been Mr Lynch more than anyone else who has appealed to the public to refrain from tax evasion and wage claims in the interest of improving the country's ailing economy. Now it has been clearly displayed that the Treasurer enjoys a life-

style of considerable wealth. So Mr Whitlam was able to begin his campaign in an atmosphere of hopefulness. Nothing has yet gone right for the Liberals.

The middle-of-the-road Australian democrats, who are clearly going to be a considerable force in this election, have already deprived the Liberals of many votes in the Victoria by-election and the Queensland election.

So although Mr Whitlam's speech today might have lacked the excitement of his 1972 campaign, there was an air of confidence, caused more by Liberal Party troubles than Labour triumph.

The main thrust of the speech was to outline Labour's policies of restoring the national health scheme, Medibank, to its original form, abolishing payroll tax, and an employment subsidy plan. But perhaps the most important aspect of the speech was Mr Whitlam's avoidance of the word "socialism" and his emphasis on the fact that Labour would not go on a big spending boom.

The Labour Party will almost certainly poll much better than was thought at the time of the announcement of the election but Liberal setbacks notwithstanding, it still has a long way to go before being returned to office.

Americans bored by Mafia saga

From Michael Leapman
New York, Nov 17

The latest television ratings indicate a surprising new development in the culture of Americans: they are growing out of their obsession with the Mafia.

A nine-hour presentation of *The Godfather*, the best-selling Mafia novel which was turned into two lucrative films, was watched by considerably fewer people than the National Broadcasting Company, which screened it, had hoped.

The television version was aired on four successive nights, and consisted of the two *Godfather* films plus extra footage which was rescued from the cutting-room floor. NBC had confidently expected that the four-part series would give them a comfortable lead in the ratings war with the two other national networks.

Yet the first instalment, last Saturday, was watched in only 16,300,000 homes—which sounds a lot but put it only thirteenth in the week's ratings. The Sunday episode did a better job, climbing to fifth place. All episodes have been accompanied by a pious disclaimer that any offence is meant towards Italian-Americans, from whose ranks the Mafia is largely recruited.

The Monday and Tuesday ratings have yet to be released, but it is already clear that, by the competitive standards of American network television, the series was a flop. It did not do nearly as well as last season's *Roots*, the dramatized version of black history, nor as well as *Washington Behind Closed Doors*, a fictional but realistic account of the events leading up to Watergate.

What seems to be happening is that Americans are losing their fascination with organized crime which, although often lucrative and sometimes deadly, generates built-down to smug time and sleazy infringements of the law. Instead, they are turning to larger themes like historical crises against the black people and pervasive corruption in government.

Parallel with this is a surge of interest in the fantasies of outer space, shown in the success of the films *Star Wars* and, more recently, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. Street crime, some of it organized by the Mafia, is a part of everyday life in many American cities. The citizens now prefer to escape from it to science fiction or the refuted atmosphere behind Washington's closed doors.

The *Godfather* remains popular among certain elements, however. A group of 75 inmates of a prison in Queens, a borough of New York, have been sentenced to 25 days in solitary confinement for refusing to return to their cells at the stipulated time on Saturday because there was still an hour of the first episode to go.

They were made to miss the final episode while the other 425 inmates of the prison were given permission to stay up late to see it through to the end. So crime does not pay. At least, it does not pay the box office as well as it used to.

Nkomo-Mugabe talks to heal nationalist rift

Lusaka, Nov 17.—Talks aimed at uniting the two wings of the Rhodesian Patriotic Front guerrilla movement, weakened by an internal crisis, were due to start here today.

Mr Joshua Nkomo, the front's joint leader, flew from Lusaka to Maputo, the Mozambique capital, to meet Mr Robert Mugabe, his ally in the grouping. It is not known how long the talks would last.

In another development, a Zambian Government spokesman said President Kaunda

would fly to Mbala, in northern Zambia, tomorrow to meet President Nyerere of Tanzania.

Government sources said the two leaders have taken differing views over the timing of elections foreseen in the Anglo-American peace plan for Rhodesia and over other issues relating to Rhodesia's widening guerrilla war.

Zambia and Tanzania are two of the front-line states whose diplomacy and support for the guerrillas play a central role in determining the course of the fight against white minority rule in Rhodesia.—Reuters.

Surprised US admires Sadat move

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Nov 17

President Sadat's forthcoming visit to Israel is still causing reverberations in Washington. The American Government was taken as much by surprise as everyone else, and a State Department spokesman took pains this morning to repudiate any suggestion that the United States had heard about it in advance.

President Carter has said that he had been in daily contact with Mr Sadat. The spokesman made it clear that this was all part of the Administration's general diplomacy.

The Government's position is still that it welcomes President Sadat's move unconditionally. It is described as "a positive contribution to continuing efforts to open negotiations at Geneva for a comprehensive settlement of the Middle Eastern conflict".

This is a carefully-calculated way of putting it. The Americans have no wish to appear to be advocating a bilateral agreement between Egypt and Israel, for fear that creating such an impression would jeopardize the chances of a comprehensive settlement.

It is, however, perfectly clear that all Middle Eastern

diplomacy will be held in suspense until the results of President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem have been assessed. The Administration and commentators here are filled with astonished admiration for him.

Richard Davy writes: The Russians do not seem to approve of President Sadat's visit. *Pravda* writes that although there are many unclear points in the Egyptian-Israeli dialogue "one can discern in it the attempts of Tel Aviv and the forces behind it to urge Egypt on to the road of separate negotiations and deals with Israel".

Rhodesia's guerrilla war creates crisis for the mission hospitals

From Our Special
Correspondent

Salisbury, Nov 17

The guerrilla war in Rhodesia has created a crisis for the extensive network of mission hospitals and clinics which provide medical care for Africans in rural areas where about four-fifths of the population live.

According to the Association of Rhodesian Church Hospitals, the number of missionary doctors has fallen since last year from 36 to 18. Two were murdered, two were deported and the rest left—because of the war, Sister Margaret Murphy, a representative of the association, says. Another five are due to leave by the end of this year and no replacements have been found.

Eight of the 83 hospitals which these doctors served have closed and others are expected to shut shortly. More seriously, 10 of the 15 rural medical schools attached to the mission hospitals have also closed. These schools train medical assistants who are responsible for much of the basic health care in rural areas and are considered the backbone of the mission health-care system.

In Rhodesia, the mission hospitals have traditionally been responsible for caring for the needs of the majority of the black rural population. The Government operates a number of rural clinics but many of these have also been closed. The Government's own medical

resources are already overstretched by the war.

The mission hospitals tend to be situated in remote parts of the tribal trust lands where the war between the nationalist guerrillas and Rhodesian troops is most intense. They are far from the main European centres and are usually approached by long stretches of dirt road where land mines are a constant danger.

The mission doctors have found themselves caught in the middle. If they assist one side then the other is bound to react. "Frequently a mission doctor is asked to aid a wounded guerrilla", Father Randolph, a Jesuit priest and secretary of the Rhodesian Catholic Bishops' Conference, says. If he refuses he is likely to be shot. But if he provides help the security forces will quickly find out and then he will be charged with assisting terrorists. So what can he do?

The security forces are taking an increasingly hard line with missions which they suspect of assisting guerrillas. Two months ago the 110-bed Regina Coeli hospital near the Mozambique border was closed by the authorities and all its equipment and furnishings removed after a "contact" there between guerrillas and security forces.

But the murder of two mission doctors earlier this year was probably the single biggest reason why so many are now leaving.

Shah joins fight against dearer oil

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Nov 17

The Shah of Iran concluded a three-day visit to the United States last night with a promise to fight for an oil price freeze during the forthcoming round of negotiations among oil-producing countries.

He told a press conference here that he had arrived in Washington undecided whether oil prices should be increased but after his talks with President Carter he had decided to give the United States "a break".

Since Saudi Arabia was also

interested in holding down prices, he thought "this attitude will prevail" when members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meet in Caracas, Venezuela, next month.

He confirmed earlier reports from the White House that Mr Carter would look sympathetically at Iranian requests for more armaments, including 140 F16 fighter aircraft and additional radar aircraft.

The Shah's departure last night for Paris was witnessed by hundreds of well-wishers who were allowed on the Andrews

Air Force base near here. Anti-Shah protesters were kept away by Charles Hargrove, writer from Paris: Exceptional precautions have been taken here to protect the Shah who arrived this morning on a private visit during which he will have two meetings with President Giscard. The change in Iran's position on oil prices is partly attributed to a slump in sales but also to a desire on the part of the Shah to conciliate alarm in the United States. The Congress at the scope of American arms sales to his country. Leading article, page 15

Britons freed on bail in Madagascar

By a Correspondent

Two British salvage experts detained in Madagascar two months ago in connexion with alleged breaches of state security were released on bail after this week.

Mr Steven Kingsley, aged 39, of Longfield, Kent, and Mr Christopher Williams, aged 35, of Chislehurst, Kent, had been held incommunicado in the capital, Tananarive. It is believed that a number of French and Belgian citizens were also arrested.

On October 29 the two men were charged with having no residence or work permits and with "unlawful use of telecommunications equipment on board ship". They had been working on a cargo vessel which broke down in the Indian Ocean and had to be towed to the northern port of Diego Suarez.

Poll shows Americans in two minds over Concorde

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Nov 17

A public opinion poll published today showed that Americans are ambivalent about Concorde. According to the Harris Poll of 1,533 people throughout the country, 42 per cent opposed the decision to allow the Anglo-French supersonic jet to land in the United States, while 36 per cent favoured it. The rest were undecided.

The poll was published less than a week before the first scheduled Concorde flights by British Airways and Air France are due to land at New York's Kennedy Airport.

The belief that Concorde is noisier than other aircraft and puts an unfair burden on people who live near airports was held by 66 per cent of those who answered, with only 17 per cent disagreeing with it.

Those polled were asked whether they thought that Concorde was poorly built, and that America should wait until a better supersonic aircraft was created before allowing landings. Only 21 per cent supported this contention, while 34 per cent opposed it and 45 per cent were undecided.

The view that, now that the cause have given Concorde the go-ahead it should be given the chance to prove itself, was supported by 54 per cent.

Opponents of Concorde who live near Kennedy Airport are planning to mount another "drive-in" round its approach roads on Sunday to protest against the decision to allow the airliner to land.

British Airways are installing a new departure and arrival lounge for the use of Concorde passengers at their terminal building at the airport.

Referendum for Banabans

A referendum is to be held to determine the relationship between the island of Banabans, and the Gilbert Islands, and the status of phosphate revenues, which has been the source of much friction between the two sides.

The Foreign Office yesterday announced the announcement of direct talks between the parties and said it would be prepared to abide by the result of such a referendum.

Uganda ban lifted
Nairobi, Nov 17.—The Ugandan Government today lifted the ban on foreign newspapers and magazines which has been in force for three years.

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OVERSEAS

Party leaders modify policies on Nato and EEC as Greek election campaign reaches climax

From Mario Modiano
Athens, Nov 17

Every night this week the heart of the Greek election campaign is the television screen. The main political parties are engaged in a series of heated exchanges of views, each trying to outdo the other in a display of strength by thousands of supporters before voting on Sunday.

This ritual of electioneering is traditional in Greece, but it is the increasing popularity of television in politics, so much so that the enthusiastic flag-waving multitudes now have to be strategically deployed on the stage for maximum television effect.

It has been a spirited and exciting campaign all round. It has left the streets of towns and villages littered with tons of multicoloured propaganda leaflets, and their walls thick with posters and portraits of rival candidates.

Above all, the campaign has left the vacillating voter more confused than ever. It is, perhaps, a blessing that this hectic ritual has all political activity on Saturday, the eve of polling day, in order to give voters time for reflection.

The questions that existed before the campaign began, remain unanswered:

Will the emergence of the ultra-right National Rally diminish the chances of Mr Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, and his ruling New Democracy party, of winning a comfortable

majority in the next Parliament?

Which party will come second — Mr George Pavlos's moderate Centre Union, which has been the main opposition party since 1974, or the Marxist-Socialist Paskos of Mr Andreas Papanastasiou who advocates a non-aligned international posture for Greece?

Television is becoming such an important factor in shaping opinion that after Paskos's very impressive meeting in Salonika was shown nationally, many resolute right-wing defectors from Mr Karamanlis's party hurriedly recanted because of what they saw as a looming threat of Marxism.

Equally important are the shifts in policy that leaders feel compelled to make as the campaign evolves. Mr Pavlos, who has been running alone and under its own name for the first time since 1936, is out to get as many votes as possible from Mr Papanastasiou.

One respected psephologist, who refused to venture a direct forecast, told me: "In Greece there are three big pots: one for the right which usually contains 40 per cent of the electorate; one for the centre which houses both Pavlos and Papanastasiou; and one on the left with 10 per cent. You can ladle the remaining 15 per cent from one pot to the other, and that is why for the last 30 years the differences in Greek elections have never been spectacular."

He also promises a "peaceful and programmed change to socialism" to counter suggestions that Paskos aims at a Marxist revolution.

The most striking change of policy was when Mr Papanastasiou reassured the military that Paskos did not hold them responsible for the 1967 coup. This was designed to placate the Greek officers who are strongly hostile to Marxism and would certainly react if Paskos appeared to be close to power.

These moves work both ways. The communist left is already attacking Mr Papanastasiou for promising the "junta remnants" within the armed forces a virtual amnesty, not unlike the one promised by the junta-sympathising National Rally.

The Moscow-oriented Greek Communist Party, which is running alone and under its own name for the first time since 1936, is out to get as many votes as possible from Mr Papanastasiou.

One respected psephologist, who refused to venture a direct forecast, told me: "In Greece there are three big pots: one for the right which usually contains 40 per cent of the electorate; one for the centre which houses both Pavlos and Papanastasiou; and one on the left with 10 per cent. You can ladle the remaining 15 per cent from one pot to the other, and that is why for the last 30 years the differences in Greek elections have never been spectacular."

US officials arrive in Somalia as Russians go

Mogadishu, Nov 17.—As the exodus of Soviet advisers from Somalia gained momentum, the chairman of the United States House of Representatives' armed services committee arrived in Mogadishu today to hear the Somali view of the military situation in the Horn of Africa.

Mr Melvin Price, whose committee's duties include the approval of American arms deals, flew in on a special American government aircraft with seven other Congressmen and an eight-man military party, including two colonels.

They were driven straight to the residence of President Siad Barre. American diplomatic sources said that they would also meet other Government and military officials and leave Mogadishu tonight for Zambia.

Mr Price, who has already visited Israel, Egypt and Kenya, told reporters on arrival that his primary interest was to know Somalia's view of the defensive picture around the region.

Our Nairobi Correspondent writes: Twelve MPs from Somali-speaking areas of northern Kenya met President Kenyatta at Nakuru, 100 miles from Nairobi today to assure him that Somalis living in Kenya oppose claims to their areas by Somalia.

President Kenyatta, receiving a report on a recent series of loyalty demonstrations held in northern Kenya, said Kenya would never surrender an inch of its territory.

Retiring man who made Janata Government tackle the immense problem of rural poverty

Force behind 'Gandhian socialism'

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, Nov 17

The number of Indian ministers against whom there were no complaints of corruption "could be counted on one's fingertips", according to Mr Charan Singh, the Home Minister.

Such an awkward, uncompromising remark is wholly characteristic of the 70-year-old north Indian politician who has emerged as the strongest force behind the Janata Party's newly announced economic strategy.

Mr Singh, a retiring man who only warms when talking about village life, has successfully insisted that the coalition Government should tackle the immense problem of rural poverty.

The stock exchanges have reacted negatively to this "Gandhian socialism". Textile shares have fallen particularly heavily.

The party's new strategy aims to combat joblessness and the pointless drift to urban slums.



Mr Charan Singh: awkward, uncompromising remark.

troverly over the role of large-scale and small industry can be expected.

Weaving illustrates the dilemma. India's handlooms at present produce only about 4,000 million yards of cloth annually, while the mills turn out about 9,000 million yards. Yet to clothe everyone properly in India, an estimated extra 11,000 million yards are needed. The Janata policy, however, would gradually reduce the output of the mills to favour handlooms. The danger is that if they do not expand their production sufficiently, the gap will widen.

There is a fundamental contradiction between Janata's demand that essential commodities must be produced in sufficient quantities and the decision to switch more resources to cottage and rural industry.

Mrs Gandhi backed. Supporters of Mrs Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, said last night they would go ahead with an attempt to restore her to leadership of the Congress Party.

Pravda upset by West's human rights attitude

Moscow, Nov 17.—Pravda today accused some NATO countries of waging a propaganda war over human rights at the European security conference in Belgrade.

It said that Mr Arthur Goldberg, the United States chief delegate, was using the rights issue to distract attention from the serious problems which worried people in Europe.

Pravda added that a number of Western countries continued to hamper the work of the conference by "waving Basket Three in the air"—a reference to the section of the Helsinki declaration dealing with humanitarian issues.

"Sensing the weakness of their positions in the conference halls, some members of NATO tried during the past week to launch a propaganda war in the lobbies. But their dirty trick was condemned by the overwhelming majority of delegations," it added.

Dessa Terisian writes from Belgrade: A file containing documents on alleged violations of human rights in the Soviet Union and other East European countries was today handed over to the Italian delegation.

It was brought by Signor Carlo di Meana, the president of the Venice Biennale, and included a list of dissident intellectuals from Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia who have been refused visas and prevented from attending the Biennale whose theme is cultural dissent.

Japan gets American force cuts warning

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Nov 17

After living under America's security umbrella for three decades, Japan was given two forceful warnings today that the military presence of the United States in Asia is rapidly waning.

The first came from Mr Harold Brown, the American Secretary for Defence, who indicated today that the United States might gradually reduce its military strength in the Western Pacific, including Japan, after ground forces are withdrawn from South Korea.

Mr Brown is reported to have told a group of visiting Japanese politicians in Washington that Japan must now take steps to increase its own defence potential against submarine and air attacks.

A further blow came from Manila today. Under a new bilateral agreement, Filipino officers will replace American commanders at the naval base at Subic Bay and at Clark Air Force base in the Philippines.

The agreement was reached to provide recognition of Philippine sovereignty, when American and Filipino officers convened in Manila yesterday to review the terms of the 30-year-old treaty. The original terms of the treaty allowed America to maintain bases in the Philippines until 1991. However, President Marcos is now insisting that the term should be shortened to 1985.

The Filipinos have also insisted that the Americans can operate the bases in future only under the national flag of the Philippines. As a consequence, American commanders cannot now be expected to have effective control over the bases in the event of emergency operations.

In essence, America's declining military presence in Asia appeared to reach a climax when President Carter announced earlier this year that his Administration intended to reduce 33,000 ground troops from South Korea.

In reality, America has consistently closed its bases and reduced its forces in Asia in the past five years—before and after the end of the conflict in Vietnam.

The decline in America's military strength in Asia extends across the entire region.

Japan, America's most important ally and trading partner in Asia, has also seen a 10 per cent decline in American military power within the last three years.

At present 46,000 American officers and men are stationed in 12 large bases on the main islands of Japan and Okinawa. However, their numbers are expected to decrease when one-third of the ground forces on Okinawa begin to rotate between the island and the United States.

Manila: A senior Philippines Opposition leader today accused the United States of shoring up the repressive martial law regime of President Marcos and of intervening in the internal affairs of his country.

Mr José Diokno, a former Senator said that American military and economic aid to rearm the Marcos regime, as well as any American security assistance, would prop up the Marcos regime and enhance American security in this part of the world.

Mr Diokno, the president of the Civil Liberties Union, told the Foreign Correspondents' Association of the Philippines that he was for the abrogation of the bases agreement with America.—Agence France-Press.

Vietnam fugitives see Australia as only refuge

From Our Correspondent
Bangkok, Nov 17

Vietnamese refugees escaping from their homeland by boat now look on Australia as the only country open to them.

Many refugees arriving off Thailand give Australia as their final destination, and stop only to take on fuel, water and food. Some are of Chinese origin and are obviously rich. Their boats are well-equipped and they have good charts.

Their destination would have been Thailand, Malaysia or some other part of South-East Asia but now all countries in the area are making it difficult for them to land. They say their only chance of refuge is to reach Australia.

Doubts cast on 13-day crawl with broken leg

Sydney, Nov 17.—Doubts about a student's story that he had spent 13 days crawling unnoticed along a creek bed in the centre of Sydney with a broken leg were expressed by the police today.

A police spokesman said that several people had come forward saying that they had seen Mr Stephen Sheehy, who is 18, fit and well several miles away, the day after he was supposed to have fallen off his bicycle on a busy road breaking his leg.

His father said today that his son was still upset by the experience. When he disappeared he was worried by coming examinations at a technical college.—Reuters.

Rush to enter university as China reverses policy

From David Bonavia
Hongkong, Nov 17

A rush of school leavers in China applying for university entrance under newly announced procedures is causing serious problems.

Provinces after province has followed the recent national directive to allow young people to enter university direct from school if they are bright enough. This is a total reversal of the policy followed since the Cultural Revolution, under which they first had to work in the villages or factories, or join the armed forces.

Judging by provincial radio reports, the eagerness of secondary school pupils to go straight to university has led to the unjustified suppression of some applications by local authorities.

The screening out of the less

bright applicants at preliminary examinations has been forbidden as causing "contradictions between units". But it seems that no satisfactory means has yet been found to cope with the rush of applicants for the entrance examinations, which are being conducted on a province-by-province basis.

Certain youths are being excluded from entrance, which will also cause dissatisfaction. Contrary to the policy of the late Mao Tse-tung, farmers' children who intend to return to their villages after graduation are no longer eligible for university education, although they will probably be allowed to go to agricultural colleges.

No provision is being made for students who are not 100 per cent physically fit, so that handicapped youths are barred from university education.

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4		17.30	9.00
5		17.30	8.00
6		17.30	7.00
7			6.00
8			6.00
9			6.00
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11			6.00
12			6.00
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SPORT

Football

The familiar English bludgeon is replaced by wit and patience

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent

The first person to implore people not to get carried away with England's welcome revival against Italy at Wembley on Wednesday was Ron Greenwood, the temporary manager. Understandably he, perhaps more than anyone, wanted to revel in a little belated glory and in the sounds of appreciation that replaced derision, but he knew that many wasted months could not be dismissed in 90 minutes. England have been shown the direction in which to go and have to get on with it. Lead them, even if it is too late for next summer's World Cup.

In the past few years, many factors have caused England's football prowess. Not all of the blame must be thrown at the departed Don Revie, who made mistakes but was hampered by problems out of his control. Lessons were not learned. Excuses became predictable, and players lost their confidence. They were hopelessly misused, being asked to play in styles alien to their proven strengths. The fact that the few players who were capable of directing attacks were not used was a major weakness.

In his short period as temporary manager, Mr Greenwood has mended much of the damage. He began, perhaps wisely, by attempting to produce immediate improvement by tapping the talents of the Liverpool club. This failed, and he turned to the more significant, in Luxembourg where more goals, combined with yesterday's win, could have put Italy in a much more difficult position against Luxembourg on December 3. He admitted this

weak that the team he chose to play Italy was the first to reflect his views. His theme was the use of good club players in the club roles. There was little regimentation because the essence of his philosophy is freedom of movement. This was particularly noticeable in the performance of Keegan, who, not being told exactly where to play, used his considerable natural instinct. Indeed, most of the team played as if released from shackles. Coppell and Barnes were able to show their skills without being tied to rigid plans and both settled to have promising futures.

In praising England for such a refreshing display it would be wrong to forget that the Italians still obtained a satisfactory result and were rarely committed to attack. Nonetheless, their defence found Keegan, Brookling, Barnes and Coppell difficult to subdue, and were perhaps surprised to discover that whereas in the past England teams had attempted to bludgeon a way through, this time there was wit and patience to combat. There was no mistaking the influence of Mr Greenwood. Neither is it a coincidence that he has not been asked to accept the position should soon become permanent. He said yesterday that he would not be prepared to accept the position to extend his contract at least until the end of the year.

The FA should not be saved from turning to less stable candidates than Mr Greenwood, who could be asked to work with assistants of his own choice. The list of serious contenders for a position with an as-yet undeclared title can now be reduced to the names of those who have been under Mr Greenwood's overall direction. Doubtless, one or two of the more publicised candidates would not be prepared to accept these terms. The decision may not be known until early in the new

year, in which England's progress will have to be made in matches against West Germany (February 22), Brazil (April 19) and Hungary (May 24).

If Mr Greenwood does continue to guide English international football towards a brighter era his ambition will be to destroy what he described yesterday as the "age old bugbear" that results count above everything else. He said: "This has been the ruin of English soccer, and the public have been largely to blame for demanding it, but now they are demanding something better."

After last night's World Cup qualifying match, a host of 11 nations are sure of their places in the finals in Argentina next summer. The 11 was over Bulgaria makes France the latest qualifying nation, joining West Germany (holders), Argentina (host nation), Poland, Austria, the Netherlands, Sweden, Scotland, Brazil, Peru and Mexico.

The other five places will go to Italy or England (deciding match: Italy v Luxembourg on December 3), Yugoslavia or Spain (deciding match: November 30 in Yugoslavia), Hungary or Bolivia (deciding match: November 30 in Bolivia), Tunisia or Egypt (deciding match: November 30 in Tunisia), and finally one from Korea, Australia or Kuwait (deciding match: November 30 in Korea).

Wednesday's results

WORLD CUP: Group one: Portugal 4, Cyprus 0 (Portugal qualify). Group two: Turkey 1, East Germany 2 (Austria 1, East Germany 2). Group three: Spain 1, Bulgaria 0 (Spain qualify). Group four: France 1, Yugoslavia 0 (France qualify). Group five: Czechoslovakia 1, Wales 0 (Czechoslovakia qualify).

League Cup: Quarter-finals

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division One

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Two

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Three

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Four

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Five

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Six

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Seven

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Eight

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Nine

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Ten

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Eleven

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Twelve

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Thirteen

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Fourteen

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Fifteen

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Sixteen

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Seventeen

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Eighteen

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Nineteen

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Twenty

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Twenty-one

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Twenty-two

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Twenty-three

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Twenty-four

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Twenty-five

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Twenty-six

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Twenty-seven

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Twenty-eight

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Twenty-nine

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Thirty

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Thirty-one

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Thirty-two

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Thirty-three

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Thirty-four

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Thirty-five

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Thirty-six

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Thirty-seven

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Thirty-eight

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Thirty-nine

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Football League: Division Forty

Derby County 1, Cardiff 0; Swansea 1, Birmingham 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0.

Italian papers criticize their team

Rome, Nov. 17.—The Italian press today unanimously decried their national team's loss to England at Wembley. But they took comfort in the fact that Italy need only beat Luxembourg to qualify for the World Cup finals.

Under the banner headline "beaten by fear," Italy's *L'Espresso* sports daily, *La Gazzetta dello Sport*, said Italy deserved a heavier defeat than the one they suffered in England, re-

lying on "catenaccio" defence without having the players to make it work. *La Gazzetta* said, "It was a disgraceful result for an old and respectable style of play, which in recent times has been discarded."

Turin's *La Stampa* said the defeat had been "controlled," not jeopardising Italy's chances of going to Argentina, but Italy had been "beaten by fear," not even one convincing attacking

move in reply to England's onslaught. Greenwood's team crushed us," Rome's *Il Tempo* said. "After the first goal by Keegan we were overcome by the usual Italian defensive tactics. Our passport for Argentina is already stamped, but from tonight there is a stain on it: the defeat at Wembley. We must pay back in identical currency for the insult they suffered in Rome a year ago," *Il Tempo* said.

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Greenhoff successfully came through a three-week lay-off and said: "I'm fit and available for selection and looking forward to getting back into first team action. Our side is settled, I feel we will move up the table." Macari is also fit after missing five matches with an injury to his right leg. David Sexton picks from a full strength pool for Saturday's home match with Norwich City.

Ferguson and Bolton of Coventry City are doubtful for the home match against Queens Park Rangers. During the club's recent trip to Malta they both did some light training but the manager Gordon Strachan says they are not out of the side until next week.

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Rugby Union



Watkinson (centre) forces his way through to score Oxford's second try.

Brave challenge ended by Rees

By Peter West

Rugby Correspondent

Oxford Univ 19, Stanley's XV 25. Oxford may not have won a first-class match this season but they must have given themselves and their supporters considerable heart by a rousing performance at Twickenham yesterday. By the interval the match was a 15-9, which with any luck might have been substantially more. They fought back midway through the second half to 19-19 and it seemed the third of three tries for Stanley's by Egan Rees, the British Lions wing, whose speed was of a different dimension to that of anyone else, to cook their goose.

That score by Rees, for which he twinkled over from short range, was the least spectacular of his efforts. He ran in the first from the halfway line, and the second from about 70 yards. On both occasions he streaked away from the opposition like a classic winner under the whip.

In the end, the University yielded by two goals, a try, two penalties and a try, and the Cambridge players, who traditionally are invited to watch the game, were left with something to think about.

The star-studded visitors for a long time were made to look a scratch combination, with little cohesion or commitment up front and too many forwards in the loose. But it is proper to concentrate on Oxford's virtues—on their defence, spirit and teamwork overall, and in particular on a fine effort by the pack.

Considering the weight and experience of the pack, it was a fair amount of ineffectual play (or spillage) to be seen. The pack was developed a useful drive and service at ruck and maul. They were lucky, perhaps, in that Fran Cotton failed to turn up for opposition.

His absence still remained a mystery at the end of the game, and it was suggested by Michael Burton that he might have been taken to Grace Road by mistake. Cotton's place was taken by Woodhead, a former Oxford Blue.

It may be invidious, from such a good eight-man performance, to award one individual palm, but that must go to Moir, a 19-year-old fair-haired front man from Ampleforth who scored a marvellous try and enjoyed an outstanding game at number eight in every respect.

Bryan marshalled affairs behind the scrum with a moody sure touch, all four three-quarters clearly were ready to have a go when opportunity knocked and Thomas, the full back, though he made an error of two in defence, was always contributing to the attack. However, if Gareth Davies, the Cardiff stand-off half, was not in, Bryan presumably would revert to the middle.

A discouraging start by the university left them nine points down in not more than 10 minutes. Barely a minute later, a lineout offence and then, from a maul set up by French on the Stanley's 25, Duckham accelerated clear on the right to provide a nicely timed pass for his try.

The night was, as if jet-propelled, wrong-footed several would-be tacklers with a devastating burst of speed, and the pack, and Hare converted.

The remainder of the first half belonged conclusively to Oxford. First, Faleck fed top line on the short side of the scrum, the centre cutting inwards before pivoting an inside pass to the flanker, who then passed to the full back, who converted.

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Stanley's soon exerted themselves in the second period when Field Churned off a maul, and Anderson, outstanding on a flank, accelerated powerfully to the corner. Hare could not quite convert this try but had no trouble after the second long-range ruck by Rees. This occurred when Thomas scooped with Bryan to establish a ruck for Oxford, which then fed George Ellis, who scored a try. Hare converted.

They were supposed to play a double on Wednesday, but Smith did not turn up. His wife had been told that he was not on the programme. The tournament committee accepted responsibility for the misunderstanding and, instead of imposing a disqualification, they decided the match for yesterday. But this could have involved another American, Bill Martin, who was supposed to play a double on Wednesday, but Smith did not turn up. His wife had been told that he was not on the programme. The tournament committee accepted responsibility for the misunderstanding and, instead of imposing a disqualification, they decided the match for yesterday. But this could have involved another American, Bill Martin, who was supposed to play a double on Wednesday, but Smith did not turn up. His wife had been told that he was not on the programme. The tournament committee accepted responsibility for the misunderstanding and, instead of imposing a disqualification, they decided the match for yesterday. But this could have involved another American, Bill Martin, who was supposed to play a double on Wednesday, but Smith did not turn up. His wife had been told that he was not on the programme. The tournament committee accepted responsibility for the misunderstanding and, instead of imposing a disqualification, they decided the match for yesterday. But this could have involved another American, Bill Martin, who was supposed to play a double on Wednesday, but Smith did not turn up. His wife had been told that he was not on the programme. The tournament committee accepted responsibility for the misunderstanding and, instead of imposing a disqualification, they decided the match for yesterday. But this could have involved another American, Bill Martin, who was supposed to play a double on Wednesday, but Smith did not turn up. His wife had been told that he was not on the programme. The tournament committee accepted responsibility for the misunderstanding and, instead of imposing a disqualification, they decided the match for yesterday. But this could have involved another American, Bill Martin, who was

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What's the point of Ken White's mural?

Ken White spent three months working eight hours a day on this beautiful eerie mural. The place is Swindon and the mural is Swindon as it used to be.

He says he did it because the "wall just asked for a mural" and because he thought it might brighten the place up a bit.

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THE MURAL WAS A THAMES-DOOWN COMBINATION ARTS PROJECT

Mr Chapple and his supporters could tarnish their image in the battle against the left

'Moderates' run the risk of going too far to keep control of the electricians' union

he electricians' union holds a rules revision and policy-making conference in Blackpool next week, an event in itself not wildly remarkable. The scabdeliberations of the labour movement are not often regarded with high seriousness. At this conference brings into the public gaze a political over struggle that industrial respondents have shown an understandable shyness about reporting. Tread softly, for you read on my lawyers.

It presents a further chapter in the long-running battle between the entrenched right-wing leadership of Mr Frank Chapple, the union's general secretary, and his supporters, and the left-wing minority on the executive council who aimed a power takedown in the elections of 1973—only to find their policies (and personalities) discredited.

In this union's journal *Contact*, Mr Chapple said this month that the conference is a watershed in our history, adding: "Having consistently lost the battle of genuinely held elections, the communist and Trotskyist based opposition in the union will attempt to gain control through manipulation and intimidation of the conference."

But there is little room for doubt that the executive will get away with the conference to employ the unfortunate phrase used by one of the dominant moderate group to

me). To begin with, the agenda has a distinctly dandy air. The motions on the social contract all talk about what happens after Phase Two, which is not surprising because they were designed for a midsummer conference. In any event, Mr Chapple's famous dictum, "resolutions are resolutions, not the laws of the Medes and Persians," surely stands.

In fact, when it comes to rules revision, the resolutions may not be resolutions. At the last such conference, delegates were asked to abandon motions put up by branches in favour of a new rule book drawn up by the executive that they had never seen before. Obeying to the platform, they did, and the executive won every point.

It will be interesting to observe the fate of motion 15, from Rotherham, which congratulates the leadership of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union for pursuing "progressive policies" but feels that the executive council and senior officers "can, on occasions, be reluctant to accept justified criticism."

In this respect it may be instructive to consider the fate of one of Mr Chapple's critics, Mr Harold Best, executive councillor for the Yorkshire division. He was elected in 1973 along with two other "independents" who are socialists but not members of the Labour Party. After a later election, without naming



Mr Frank Chapple: a continuing battle.

the three, Mr Chapple said in *Contact* that their policies were "as old as the hills or as Marx", and "without any shadow of a doubt they would inexorably return us to the corrupt and undemocratic regime of which we rid this union 16 years ago". Mr Chapple is by chance also editor of *Contact*, and efforts by those who had been criticized to exercise a right of reply failed. Their articles were not printed.

vigorously denies. He took legal advice, which found that the ballot inquiry had not given Mr Best an opportunity to speak in his own defence or challenge the evidence given against him. He was advised to seek a court declaration that the report of the inquiry was contrary to natural justice and should be set aside, and that he had not acted in breach of rule. But because he has been refused legal aid, he cannot take the case to court.

And for the moment, there the matter stands. The moral of the story appears to be that it is unwise to stand on a politically non-conformist policy platform. The moderates on the executive currently enjoy a majority of eight to four against their opponents. But there are apparently moves afoot to buttress their position.

For the past two years, two executive seats have not been filled following the death of their incumbents, Mr McKernan in Ireland and Mr Don Sheehy in Manchester. It may be argued that the elections were postponed because the EETPU is in merger talks with the engineering workers' union. But that has not stopped the AUEW from filling executive seats promptly as they fell vacant.

The "moderate" play now seems to be that Mr Chapple and Mr Charlie Lovell, secretary of the plumbing section, should be given a vote to make the forces of moderation un-

assailable by the left. Elections in Manchester and for a Scottish seat (Ireland is slated for dissolution as an executive position) might otherwise push the balance of power to a 6-5 tie with the casting vote held by the president.

He is elected from the executive council since the full-time presidential post was abolished by a ballot of the membership. Since that time, it has been held by Mr Tom Breakell, an executive councillor and a leading supporter of Mr Chapple.

None of this appears in the documents for conference. Indeed, it is hard to find out from the papers lately released to the press just what is going on.

The EETPU executive meets in Blackpool tomorrow to decide on conference strategy. It will be surprising if there is not a political clash to be mirrored on a larger scale when the delegates meet on Monday. The electricians' union has a worthy, if not entirely successful, record of fighting for the cause of Soviet dissidents within the TUC. Since the last conference, that outward concern has had precious little internal value. The standing of the right-wingers who dominate the union will inevitably be diminished to "the unacceptable face of moderation" if past practice is to repeat itself.

Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Bernard Levin

Solzhenitsyn's roar of defiance on the long winter march into night

Alexander Solzhenitsyn arrived in the West in February 1974 like some huge volcano, his expulsion representing the most complete confession of moral bankruptcy and turpitude yet made by his country's rulers. (It is worth reminding ourselves today of the courage of the others who refuse to accept excesses, not only Dr Sakharov but General Gromyko, who has just been given permission to travel abroad for a much-needed operation, and whose only concern is that if he goes he might not be allowed back in.) It soon became clear that the volcano was by no means extinct: Solzhenitsyn's television appearances in this country (and in the United States) had an effect on great and continuing that the only appropriate analogy is with the way in which some astronomers think the universe started: the echoes of Solzhenitsyn's Big Bang continue to vibrate in the mind, and the fallout is still fluttering to earth.

But it was not only the moral and political effect of Solzhenitsyn's arrival that gave promise of continuing: it was also the literary. (Not, of course, that it is possible to separate the two sides of such a man.) No fewer than 25 books, it appeared, were already planned in outline or detail: several of them were already written (and several have appeared, including *August 1914*, *Lenin in Zurich* and the second volume of *The Gulag Archipelago*), others it seemed, existed complete in this amazing man's head.

Almost every artistic genius has understandably felt the need, in the course of his work, to turn aside from the main stream of his creative destiny, and to explore for a time some of his tributaries. The result need not be works of lesser quality or even scale: Wagner wrote both *Tristan* and the *Masteringers* between the second act of *Siegfried* and the rest of the *Ring*, and if you do not like that comparison remember that Beethoven wrote the Eighth Symphony between the Seventh and the Ninth.

And it is with the Russian master, I have just been reading an astonishing new work by him, called *Prussian Nights* (published by Collins/Harvill), a huge narrative poem, clearly autobiographical in inspiration, translated by Robert Conquest, who has kept as closely as may be to both the metre and the rhyme-



Solzhenitsyn: an epic poem of war at its worst.

scheme of the original (it is published in parallel text). I do not at all agree with the dismissive way in which it has been discussed by some of the reviewers, including Robert Nye in *The Times*, and I want, therefore, to offer another view today.

Prussian Nights describes a moment in the Second World War, in which Solzhenitsyn served with considerable distinction as an artillery officer; his unit took part in the advance into East Prussia at the beginning of 1945, and it is during that offensive that the episode of the poem takes place. It was on that march that Solzhenitsyn saw the things that finally moved him into open defiance of the Soviet state; he made a formal complaint about some of the horrors he had witnessed, whereupon he was arrested and sent to a concentration camp. And it was in the camp that he composed *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* and planned *The First Circle*, and also wrote, entirely in his head, this poem.

Epic poems, and that is what *Prussian Nights* is, are not much in fashion nowadays: Chesterton's *Lepanto* was a long time ago. And I suspect that this very fact has coloured the reaction of some of those

who have written about Solzhenitsyn's. For it has to be read in a single sitting, if the sweep and force of the work are to be properly felt. (I remember Professor Allardyce Nicoll making this point, most pertinently, in the introduction to his fine edition of Chapman's *Homer*, a work in so strange a style that if you look too close at the trees the wood disappears altogether, whereas if you treat it as Keats presumably must have done, and gulp it down in one huge meal, it will have the same effect on you as it did on him.)

Having said that, I am under the uncomfortable necessity of finding passages to quote which deny the thesis I have just expounded. But I think this will give you some taste of it:

It hurts to gaze through the sun's
shen:
The snow field sparkles aglow.
There's not a wheel-track to be seen.
Under shining ice, in a dust of snow,
The forests stretch quietly away.
Back there in our Russian spaces
Where the front was, the woods have
gone.
Miles and miles of stumps remain:

Army: axes cut them down.
We used the trunks of our own pines
To build the bunkers of our lines.
This would have been the place to
fight—
See them standing, proud and white.
And there's no Russian saw to fell
them!...

The lakes are sparkling with blue
ice.
The rivers wrapped in whiteness.
And in the villages, the shanties,
The oak cupboards, the things that
fill them,
The pianos and the fireplaces,
The radios and the libraries.
The road's a real Nevsky Prospekt—
Dostoevsky—not a house without
him.

The Works, odd volumes—on, in fact,
Even a manuscript about him.
One of the most impressive things
about *Prussian Nights* is the poet's
ability to contrast passages like that
not only with descriptions of battle
and hand-to-hand fighting (when the
verse becomes almost epic), but with
pictures—surely drawn from life—of the atrocities that finally led

him to his protest, and of the Soviet troops liberated by their comrades from German prisoner-of-war camps, and now being marched straight from them to Stalin's grimmer Gulag:

See in formation—with a guilty look—
March Russians. Prisoners. Endless.
On each back
Brand of a flame that no atonement
guarantees.

They tramp the hard path under
hanging branches.
And always "Why?" their thought
runs on and on.

They've not been summoned to the
camp as they fell vacant.

And to our fears they've had no
motivation.

So they, alone in all the world
unwanted,

Move forward, their necks bowed as
though to bend

Under the harsh stroke of a clumsy
axe-blade,

Towards the distant parts of a cruel
land.

But the most powerful aspect of the poem is the way the poet matches the drive of his verse, its pulsing metre and varying pace, to the demands of his account of the Russian army's drive. The reader is swept along with the advance, checking in his mind, watching Solzhenitsyn's men pause to eat, loot or rape; this sense of being part of the poem is what makes me say that the reader should treat it as a single span across history, to take individual lines or even stanzas before he tries to grasp the whole, than to scoop a single painful from a rushing river.

(*Prussian Nights* also repays a second reading immediately after the first; though long for a poem by today's standards, it is still only some 1,300 lines.)

Prussian Nights has an exceptional biographical interest, because it is Solzhenitsyn's own account (the only one he has so far given) of the time in which he was turning himself into the spiritual and artistic giant we now know. But it would still, I believe, be a mighty achievement even if it were anonymous, and I urge any reader whose heart and imagination can still be stirred by poetry, war, truth and choice to try it.

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Why the Gulf waits anxiously for peace in the Middle East

I have just returned from a visit to the Gulf, where I found everyone, from the highest to the lowest, following with growing anxiety the negotiations in Washington which, for good or ill, are going to determine the fate of the whole area. It is, I fear, easy to take their attitudes for granted. There is a marked contrast—marked, at any rate, when seen from the Gulf—between the solicitude shown for the susceptibilities of one party in the Arab-Israeli dispute and the general lack of interest in the views held by an important section of the other.

Moshe Dayan, barnstormer across the United States, inciting his audiences to sabotage the policy of disengagement, whose guest he is. The British Government prepares to receive Menachem Begin, presumably at least as much to listen as to admonish. But we do not see Gulf foreign ministers

lining up in Washington to rebuke President Carter for his vacillations, or in London to

denounce Mr Callaghan for the inappropriateness of inviting Mr Begin to be fêted in England in spite of his past record, and at a time when his outlook towards peace has been so negative and his actions as demonstrated in South Lebanon last week are so violent. Yet the Gulf is more vital to the prosperity, and even the economic survival, of the West and specially of western Europe than the Ruhr is to the economic survival of Germany or the Ukraine to the prosperity of Russia, whereas Israel, to put it mildly, is not.

Yet even if its crucial importance to western Europe is misguidedly appears to have virtually contracted our politically of the Middle East.

I was interested to see Shaula Zayed, one of the friendliest and most constructive critics of the West, quoted as saying in a Lebanese magazine in almost the exact words he used to me two weeks ago that the only real threat to the oil supplies from the Gulf come from America's excessive championing of Israeli policies.

The intense concern felt by everyone in the Gulf over the progress of negotiations for a Middle East peace settlement is attributable to more than general Arab solidarity. There are more than a million Palestinians living and working in the Gulf which means that the Gulf is at least as directly concerned with the fate of the Palestinians as is Jordan or Lebanon.

It has, of course, by now become conventional orthodoxy even in Washington, to say that there can be no peace in the Middle East without a solution of the Palestine problem (justice for the Palestinians). This change of attitude should be welcomed by those who came in the Gulf, by Palestinians and indigenous Gulf-dwellers alike. But I found a growing suspicion that Washington might be trying to

water down its commitments. "Where does President Carter stand now?" was the question I was asked everywhere I went, and it was not an easy one to answer.

The danger seems to be that it may become tempting to look for agreements with everybody except the Palestinians. Of course it might be easier to find solutions to the Arab-Israeli conflict if the Palestinian factor were removed from the equation. No doubt Israel could be induced to



President Sadat: a diplomatic coup?

withdraw from the whole of Sinai by some face-saving formula which ensured her effective control over Sharm el-Sheikh for a long time to come.

More difficult, but not impossible, would be some agreement over the Golan Heights, involving demilitarization, international supervision, and the dismantling of Israeli settlements on Syrian territory, which would give both sides some security in purely military terms. But neither of these withdrawals would bring peace any nearer unless Israel was prepared to accept the Palestinian reality.

Only last week the contrast in attitudes towards peace was shown up with unusual clarity by President Sadat's most dovish speech ever on the one side, and by the ferocious Israeli air attacks on South Lebanon on the other. The humiliation inflicted on the Arabs by such a massive display of force to which no reply is possible, being the present disparity in military strength, seemed to create another obstacle on the road to peace.

President Sadat has now broken the diplomatic logjam in a spectacular manner by his proposed visit to the Knesset and may yet surprise us all by bringing off a major diplomatic coup. But should Mr Begin remain intransigent and continue to ignore the fundamental issue of the Palestinians then it is difficult to see what President Sadat's bold step can achieve.

A question frequently asked in the Middle East is, does Begin feel that while he knows how to live with war, to live with peace is beyond him? The next few weeks should bring us nearer to an answer. Should it be in the affirmative, then should President Carter fail to live up to the high expectations which were placed upon him earlier in the year then the outlook for peace in the Middle East and for Western interests in the area is gloomy indeed.

Dennis Walters

The author is Conservative MP for Westbury.

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The final lines of yesterday's article by Dr Immanuel Jakobovits should have read: "It would remove without cost a major irritant to détente and international understanding, yielding benefits far exceeding the interests of the immediate beneficiaries."

THE TIMES DIARY/ PHS

Father Christmas won't be visiting Hannah this year

Many old people will be utterly alone this Christmas. With no presents, no Christmas Dinner and no-one to talk to.

For just the price of a single present, you could help turn their Christmas into one of good cheer.

£5 provides 25 Christmas Dinners for old people overseas. £30 will adopt a Granny overseas for one year.

Christmas is a family time. Please remember all the unfortunate people who have no family. A good-will gift to them means so much more.

Please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to: Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T6, FREEPOST 30, London W1E 7JZ.

* Please tell us how if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

Keeping the record straight as the bat

Cricket, without its hallowed chronicle of the glorious deeds of centuries, is a game of 10 wickets for 10 runs, or Sobers setting about the bowling of Nash at Swansea) would be, as Porgy said of women, "a something thing", a mere pastime, the players, but "picking figures in white glimpsed from a train window."

Tomorrow, part of the English and Pakistani sections of Kerry Packer's cricket circus sets out from Heathrow. Whatever subtleties may be propounded for or against the venture (and you know my views on the subject) there is no denying that the unofficial rests will be history in the making.

It may be claimed in the High Court that the spectator appeal of this form of cricket is still unknown, but how many of you will not follow the scores? And since cricket history is about to be made, you will be glad to hear that a first-class cricket historian will be there to record it.

Mr Packer has gone not only for the best players in the world, but for the best supporting cast as well. That ace scorer of the BBC team during the past summer, Irving Rosenzweig, will be in Australia to record each ball bowled and run scored.



Mr Rosenzweig is described by E. W. Swanton in his new book as "the leading present-day historical researcher".

The acknowledged secret of his success is his unobtrusiveness and he will be unobtrusively assisting the commentary team during the Packer matches. His pen is poised, therefore, for the first delivery in Melbourne next Thursday.

The souvenirs that got away

Loyal Londoners and tourists who stood for hours hoping to catch a glimpse of the Queen in jubilee year but were disappointed because so many others got there first will delight in a jubilee souvenir book just published.

We Want The Queen, by Hugo Vickers (Debutant Pressage Ltd), is decked with pictures of the Royal Family meeting their subjects. Pictures that those who waited for so long hoped to take, but found too many heads—and sometimes umbrellas—in the way.

Mr Vickers chronicles the events that took place in the capital, ranging from a "Guess the Weight of the Mayor" competition to the lavish Bond Street Ball, where a piped nightingale sang, topless dancers performed, and Princess Margaret won a ship in a bottle on the tombola.

He allows his readers an intriguing glimpse from the gallery of top people by revealing that Lord Lichfield and Michael Lord, the Queen's skiffs, spent £21 on the tombola for Princess Margaret's tickets, until she eventually won her prize.

A jubilee footnote: *The Illustrated London News's* £1,000 sale for Britain's best-decorated street has gone to Producers Street, Fulham, London. The money will buy guide dogs for two local blind people.

On the campaigning trail again

Lord George-Brown is campaigning, and it is a refreshing sight, I am told. No sooner had he arrived in Strasbourg this week than he was taking luncheon privately with the president of the European Commission.

After Mr Jenkins, and as part of his plan to stand as a candidate for the European Parliament when direct elections are introduced, the noble Lord lobbied Emilio Colombo, the president of the Parliament, and everyone else who shares his unabated Euro-zest.

Angrily vetted

I hope none of the animals, real or fantasy, in the furry world of Richard Adams needs the services of a vet. Mr Adams, creator of *Shardik* and *Watership Down*, has dropped a bomb in his latest book, *The Plague Dogs*, which has set the British Veterinary Association snapping at his heels.

The story concerns two dogs who escape from an experimental laboratory to roam the Lake District, killing sheep and terrifying people who believe them to be infected with bubonic plague.

One of them had undergone brain surgery at the laboratory after its woman owner, had been persuaded to sell it, following an appeal by some

scientists for an adult, domesticated dog. Mr Adams says it was the woman's brother-in-law, a vet, who gave her the idea.

The BVA insist that no vet would dream of suggesting that the owner of an unwanted pet should sell it for research. They say the very idea makes their job far more difficult when they carry out euthanasia for clients who are afraid their beloved pets might end up as part of an experiment.

Reading sea poems (including MacNeice's *The North Sea*) at sea and Danish poems in Denmark is what the City of London Informal Poetry Group will be doing this weekend. Realism is the name of the game. Professional people and housewives, the 20 or so members of the group will sail from Harwich for Esbjerg, to Ribbe, near the capital of Viking Denmark, where they will read Danish poetry and poems about Denmark. They will return to England on Sunday, still reciting away to each other.

Lord of hearts—and flowers

Not long out of hospital, and in excellent heart, Lord Kenilworth leaves for Australia tomorrow to put new heart into Down Under or, at any rate, into those who may be having second thoughts about whether their bank balance makes them suitable buyers for his lordship's two-week sales boosting drive.

As phile John Siddoley, he is one of Britain's most inventive and jewelry designers. His gold and silver products carry a distinctive hallmark, the initials JS inside a heart shape.

He is an adviser to David Jones, which are the nearest Australian equivalent to our House of Fraser, and his new range of jewelry is now being prominently displayed at their stores, advertised as "Special gifts for Special people."

Purchasers, too, need to be Special. A pair of 18 carat gold brooches cost £15,000 and a six-inch high floral piece, of gold and precious stones, retails between £2,000 and £4,000.



New Printing House Square, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-257-1234

TOO FAR OR NOT FAR ENOUGH

The firing line on Labour's backbenchers of the revolt against the Government's devolution legislation clears the path for its enactment. Obstruction or serious delay is not to be expected from the Lords when a general election casts its shadow before it. Barring a dissolution of Parliament earlier than the Prime Minister may be presumed to have in mind, the Bills should reach the statute book. And unless the Scottish or Welsh electorates spur a referendum, the Bills that are being fashioned for them the new Assemblies and attendant apparatus will take their place in the constitutional arrangements for the kingdom.

Seldom can the decisive debates on measures of this magnitude have exhibited such restrained enthusiasm. The determining argument in the debate (leaving aside party advantage, disciplinary sanctions and so on) was that in Scotland, and perhaps also in Wales, settled political sentiment now demands appreciable political autonomy within the confines of the state; that where such sentiment prevails it is the course of good government to satisfy it so far as possible; and that to frustrate the Scots, in particular, in that expectation would be to propel them towards separatism. Those MPs who are not impressed by that sequence of argument but nevertheless did not oppose the passage of the legislation could invoke the promised referendum as a further opportunity of stopping the reform by talking the Scots and Welsh out of their apparent desire for it.

If that was the determining argument it was heard against a background of misgiving about

the measures themselves. Misgivings not just about their content and their workability but also about what they portend. The Scottish Nationalists welcomed the Scotland Bill as a valuable salient from which to develop their campaign for independence. As they are the specialists, so to speak, in Scottish nationalism, their view of the measure cannot be safely disregarded—unless it is to be supposed that they secretly would have preferred another parliamentary refusal of their own making. To that doubt about the effect of the measure on Scotland's relations with the other elements which compose the United Kingdom, are added misgivings about its implications for the development of government throughout the kingdom.

There is a general feeling that the compromise struck in these Bills is an unstable compromise, that it will work only if it is developed, and that the development inherent in the scheme about to be enacted is development in the direction of federalism. It is very far from clear that a move to federalism is what most of those who have thought about it want, or that it is a type of constitution appropriate to the traditions and political geography of the United Kingdom. Yet it is a reasonable conclusion that the establishment of this devolutionary scheme will set up an institutional momentum towards a federalism. If so, and since *c'est le premier pas qui coûte*, there is better reason than Ministers acknowledge for opening the referendum of endorsement to the whole nation.

The federal implications are

most visible where the legislation itself is most confused. It presupposes that the House of Commons can go on as before, but that the no-nonsense representation from Scotland (71 members) may legislate on English and Welsh matters which have been devolved for Scotland. Put in party terms that means that a Labour government might be enabled only by virtue of the larger number of its Scottish supporters to impose social legislation on England unwelcome to a majority of English MPs, or vice versa; while those same MPs would in no circumstances be permitted to arrange such matters for Scotland. The situation would not hold. It would have to be repaired either by returning to the legislative competence of Parliament (retrieving the devolutionary bone from the jaws to which it had been handed), or more likely by moving towards a federal symmetry.

Similarly with finance. An administration of the range and political motivation of the proposed Scottish excise, which yet has no responsibility for raising its own revenue, is invited to blame every defect and answer every criticism by reference to its paymasters who will be sitting at Westminster—preplanned friction. That can only be remedied by putting at its disposal substantial resources from which to raise revenue: not just the marginal "supplementary" taxes examined and disfavoured by the Government in preparing its legislation. But the apportionment of major sources of revenue between central and regional administrations is hard to envisage on any but a country-wide basis. That too points towards federalism.

NEXT YEAR'S PRICE OF OIL

Preliminary soundings of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' ministerial meeting, due to start at Caracas on December 20, are now well advanced. It is there that the Opec cartel will decide on the oil price rise for 1978. Western diplomacy, led by the United States, has won a significant concession, when the Shah of Iran indicated this week in Washington that his country would not be pressing for an immediate or substantial price increase in Venezuela.

Opec's member countries have an obvious interest in preserving the maximum appearance of unity in the coming weeks. Their whole political and financial influence depends on it. There is a clear willingness to compromise in order to avoid another major split in the ranks, which led last time to the two-tier structure of prices in the international oil market. The Shah's motives for such

restraint are obvious enough. The Iranian development programme and arms budget require ever increasing oil revenues. A split in Opec led by Iran could easily produce a situation in which faced by Saudi Arabia's pressure to contain a price increase, such revenues could fall. Equally, in the field of arms and nuclear technology, Iranian development plans are largely dependent on American goodwill. The present Iranian position, therefore, that it will be a passive "observer" at Caracas makes obvious sense.

It should not, however, be assumed that this means that there will be a total price freeze for the whole of 1978. It would require a very strong and successful stand by the Saudi Arabians to achieve that result. It is more likely that there will be a moderate increase for the year of well under 10 per cent; perhaps coming in two stages, even perhaps with a freeze for the first six months of the year.

Such restraint would be obviously welcome for the industrial world, still struggling to get out of the present phase of economic stagnation. Any more substantial increase would threaten to plunge the world back into full recession and at the same time increase inflationary pressures. The danger for the West is that the respite will be taken as an excuse for continued failure to develop energy conservation policies to match the global energy crisis that faces us. The most serious culprit in this respect remains the United States, if only because of the dominant position it occupies in the world's energy economy. No energy programme for the United States can begin to face the magnitude of the impending energy gap, so long as domestic policies continue artificially to hold down by regulation the price of a scarce and expensive resource, thus encouraging higher consumption.

THE BIRDS ARE NOT ONLY FLOWN, BUT SINGING

Without being obliged to give so much as a reason for his action, the Home Secretary has power to forbid any foreigner to enter Britain or remain here. Such a decision over the fate of any individual should be used only seldom, when major issues of public policy require it. As a general rule, its use should also be avoided if its only effect is to make the Home Secretary and his discretion look foolish. An object lesson in how not to do it was provided yesterday by Mr. Merlyn Rees in the affair of the former SS officers.

Before they ever arrived here, Mr. Rees had his eye on them. Two of the three were nabbed on arrival and served with notices requiring them to leave (the third was only spotted on his way home). Mr. Rees rightly went beyond his obligations under the Immigration Act and made his reasons public; it was against public policy, he said, for ex-members of the SS to promote the publicity and sale of a certain book celebrating the SS's wartime record. One of the three, Herr Meyer, was then released from detention, since he should be gone by midnight, like Cinderella, and the Home Secretary was in some doubt whether he had the power to detain an EEC citizen. Naturally Meyer went off and held a press conference to pro-

mote the publicity and sale of the book.

Mr. Rees was probably right to decide not to allow the men in. It is only in very serious cases that entry should be denied at a minister's discretion. Even when there is reason to expect the entrant to break the law it is often better to keep an eye on him but not judge him in advance. The power should be used with particular care when, as in this case, people are banned because they or their opinions are unpopular. There would be precious few foreign statesmen allowed into Britain if the possibility of violent demonstrations against them was held to rule them out.

In politics it is sometimes necessary to swallow one's distaste when greeting a Ponomarev or a Shelepin. The personal histories of the three German ex-officers may be blameless by comparison, but the blameless of their visit made it right to apply different standards. The name of the SS is rightly odious to most Britons with memories of the war, and especially to relatives and co-religionists of the minority groups who suffered under its oppression. The book does not appear to make a serious attempt to rebut the overwhelming evidence that the SS was involved in brutalities wholly unjustified even by the harsh rules of war.

It simply passes over them and bathes the Waffen SS in rather beery glamour. The book, in any case, is not being suppressed. But the full publicity treatment, with television interview and press conference, will seem grossly offensive to most people in Britain. An effective ban would also have demonstrated to the small minority of Germans who are returning to the history of the SS today in a spirit of political as well as nostalgic that genocide never acquires that golden haze that tends to settle on ancient clashes of arms.

But a ban that gives its victim grace to fulfil the engagements that it set out to prevent makes nonsense of itself. Whatever offence was anticipated, it has been given; if breaches of public order were feared, an opportunity was created for them to happen. If it was right to issue a banning order, it is right to have the right to hold all the men in detention until they could be put on an aeroplane. All that has been achieved is an extra dose of publicity for the book. Illegal Commonwealth immigrants would not be allowed to wander round London on their word of honour until their flight was called. Until the Home Secretary has the confidence to restrain a banned EEC citizen, the banning power—a necessary one in some instances—will sometimes be worthless.

A Crusader's tomb

From Mrs. Ailsa Rushbrooke
Sir, On February 2, 1926 you published an article by the late Sir Ronald Storr concerning the history and restoration of the tomb of Sir Philip d'Aubigné in the Parish of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.
Philip d'Aubigné was tutor to Henry III and Governor of the Channel Islands; he joined one of the expeditions in support of the Fifth Crusade and reached Jerusalem in 1222. He died there in 1226 and according to the medieval historian Matthew Paris, "was buried in holy ground, which, living he had long desired". The tomb was discovered in 1867 before the main door of the church when a stone block was removed which had been used for centuries by the

authorities to levy tax from the Christians; since 1953 when the present work of restoration was commenced it has been covered for protection by thick wooden planks.
As a direct descendant on my mother's side of Sir Philip's brother Ralph, I have on a number of occasions attempted to see the tombstone but until last month was unsuccessful in persuading the authorities to allow me to do this. On this occasion, however, through the interest and kind offices of the Mayor of Jerusalem, Mr. Teddy Kollek, and the Guardian of the Holy Sepulchre, Archimandrite Daniel of the Greek Orthodox Church, together with his Armenian and Catholic fellow administrators, the stone was uncovered for me on October 29.
I am anxious to say it speaks to be in good condition and the care-

fully carved thirteenth century Latin inscription EEC IACET PHILIPUS DE ALBIGNO GUILIELMI ANIMA REQUIESCIT IN PACE AMEN (Here lies Philip d'Aubigné, may whose soul rest in peace, Amen) and the Daubigny coat of arms, four lions in fess, are clearly legible.
Of necessity while the restoration work continues the stone has been recovered but I am sure that on completion this English Crusader's grave, the only one known and marked out of the countless graves of the eight Crusades, will once more be uncovered to be seen again by all those who visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.
Yours faithfully,
AILSA RUSHBROOKE,
10 Thurston Road,
Wimbledon, SW19
November 9.

Criticisms of 'Le Monde'

From the Editor of Le Monde
Sir, On October 15 The Times published an astonishing leader on *Le Monde*. In any other publication it would have indeed seemed preposterous and totally irrelevant. But it is deeply disturbing in a highly respected newspaper with which *Le Monde* has had a close working relationship for years.
The leader was based on an article that appeared in the German edition of the European Economic Community's magazine. The article, under the byline of Alfred Fischel, makes out that *Le Monde*'s editorial staff consists of "passive writers, political agitators and a hard core of extremists and Communists"; that its editor in chief "sees his course according to the strongest current"; and that "cynical nihilists" are "largely responsible for the newspaper's image".
If this is so, then it is surprising that *The Times* should have taken the initiative to propose to a team having so little to commend it the agreement which was to lead to the creation of our common supplement, *Europa*. But you know perfectly well that the article was a grossly unfair and libellous attack and an out and out insult. Besides, the EEC Commission was quick to repudiate the article and to apologise to *Le Monde*.
The questions submitted to the European Assembly by three of its members surprised by the publication of the article will probably afford it an opportunity to renege on its promise to investigate how you could have in your leader, in the first place, compared "allegations" whose "wildness" must seem clear to you with a "Tribune" in *Le Monde*, and secondly, how you could have found fault with our Brussels correspondent's action in protesting to the Commission over Herr Fischel's article. Finally, I let your readers know what would have happened had one of the other newspapers in the *Europa* venture treated *The Times* with such offhandness. Would you not have expected an apology at the time?

Yours sincerely,
JACQUES FAUVET,
Le Monde,
5 Rue Des Italiens,
Paris.
November 9.

Our leading article, caused *Le Monde* great offence; in that case we must have been in error, for we were certainly not intended to do so. *Le Monde* is one of the great independent newspapers of the world, and its leader is a most distinguished editor.
The leading article in question did not endorse the criticisms of *Le Monde* that were made by Herr Fischel. We did, however, consider that *Le Monde* claimed a freedom of publishing statements which made it impossible for us to respond to Herr Fischel's article as they did. Despite its violent language, of course, they had every right to reply to it.
Europe is an association of independent newspapers. It can only work that way. We would not have resented such comments as we made on *Le Monde* had our partners made them about us—indeed we would have gladly welcomed any friendly criticism—unfortunately justified—from even closer colleagues on *The Sunday Times*. However, we greatly admire *Le Monde* and will defend them to the last man when we think they are in the right.
W. R.M.

From Mr. R. W. Annand, VC
Sir, Amid the current controversy over the rights and wrongs of the claim for increased wages made by the firemen now on strike no attention has been given to the article of November 10, for a very poor wage?

Yours faithfully,
EDMUND PENNING-ROUSELL,
Yew Tree House,
Wootton,
Woodstock,
Oxford.

From Mr. A. G. C. Trollope
Sir, I wonder if it has occurred to anybody that a study of the organization and financing of another great life-saving institution might be worthwhile.

Thinking of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, organized by, manned by and run for people who in different ways either by service or by money work towards a common objective—the saving of life. The service is supported by those who use it and those who believe in its charter; it is run in small units. There is no charge on the taxpayer except to the extent of a certain percentage of income tax to the Institution from those contributions made by people out of their own taxed income.

Fire services were started and financed by the earlier insurance offices. Is it not possible to start again with the fire services with these thoughts in mind?

Yours faithfully,
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34 Gordon Wall, ECL.

From Mr. Edgar Palomontain
Sir, The sentiments expressed in the Archbishop of Westminster's thoughtful letter (November 15) will surely command a large measure of agreement.

Yours faithfully,
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From Mr. Edgar Palomontain
Sir, The Government's courage in rigidly adhering to its 10 per cent pay limit and refusing to allow any "special cases" is magnificent but does it really make sense to continue to ignore the widespread and very human desire for pay differentials to reflect varying degrees of skill, experience, responsibility, danger and effort?

The present policy of a standard percentage increase applied alike to all is not only unfair, but is also being applied in 1978 and again in subsequent years. I think, generally accepted as fair, if it had been applied initially by the Heath Government in 1973 and again in subsequent years. I think, generally accepted as fair, if it had been applied initially by the Heath Government in 1973 and again in subsequent years. I think, generally accepted as fair, if it had been applied initially by the Heath Government in 1973 and again in subsequent years.

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L. RUSSELL,
Flat 2,
27 Grosvenor Square, SW7,
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From Mr. John Litchfield, RN
Sir, The disparaging references to Admiral of the Fleet Sir Dudley Pound, OM, in your defence correspondent's review of Captain Stephen Roskill's study of Churchill and the Admiralty (November 10) ought not to pass unchallenged.

The description of Admiral Pound as a "sick, worn-out figure" who was "not strong enough to cope with Churchill's personality" and "gives an entirely false impression of his condition and character and relationship with Churchill"; and the reference to Churchill's "determination to select a First Sea Lord who could be manipulated" if this implies that Pound was Churchill's choice, is very misleading. Pound was appointed First Sea Lord three months before Churchill became First Lord, and Churchill's approval of Sir Andrew Cunningham as Pound's successor four years later hardly suggests that he wanted a yes-man in the Admiralty.

The evidence of those who knew Pound—and not only that of the "private secretaries and personal assistants" whose reports Captain Roskill discusses—as all but unanimously the other way in regard to both his state of health and his character. Pound's momentary collapse when he was tired was a fact, but it was well known more than 20 years before his death, and his enjoyment of a hard day's working whenever the opportunity offered during the war, as well as his continued relaxation in driving himself in his fast car, do not support the view that he was a "sick, worn-out figure". Nor, it may be thought, would Churchill have been likely to retain for four years of war as his right-hand adviser in charge of the Navy a

man whose powers were weakening. Pound was not the man to cling to office for the selfish doubts about his fitness, and when at the time of the Quebec Conference in 1943 he was disabled by a stroke three weeks before his death he at once told Churchill (in the White House) that he could no longer do the job.

The disparagement of Sir Dudley Pound (who declined a peerage) serves to perpetuate a myth which by reputation is in danger of creating a caricature that may be accepted by posterity as a definitive portrait. The performance of the Royal Navy under his supreme direction throughout the most critical years of the war, and his own overall record, surely entitle him to be judged in the light of the fortunes as well as the misfortunes which were encountered on the way, and by the end result.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LITCHFIELD,
Snowfield,
Bearsden,
Maidstone, Kent.

From Sir Frederick Catherwood
Sir, Mr. David Wood reports today (November 7) that "North Sea oil flows in increasing abundance" but that, among other things, "poor export performance spoils the picture".

He cares to consult your Economic Correspondent he will find that exports have had an excellent year, rising in stagnant world markets by 13.7 per cent in volume in the past quarter, and that Britain's trade would still be in balance without the year's improvement in oil revenue.
Yours faithfully,
F. CATHERWOOD,
British Overseas Trade Board,
1 Victoria Street, SW1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Use of equipment at fire stations

From Mr. Gordon Bradshaw
Sir, Will someone in authority be good enough to come down from Mount Olympus and answer the following question?

Why is it that our young soldiers have to put their health and safety in hazard (and, by extension, the lives of fire victims), by having to fight appalling fires without the assistance of breathing apparatus, when everyone knows that such apparatus is part of the equipment held at fire stations?

If the answer is that the Government will not authorize the release of the apparatus for fear of offending the trade unions because of some rubbish about not crossing picket lines, surely this is the most devastating indictment of a political movement and its ethics there has ever been.
Yours faithfully,
GORDON BRADSHAW,
Fairways,
Laburnum Avenue,
Lytham,
Lancashire.
November 16.

From Mr. Richard Dawson
Sir, Why are escapes and breathing apparatus regarded as the personal property of junior firemen?

Why, if we must show that we can manage without firemen, must our troops have their hands tied behind their backs?
RICHARD DAWSON,
Peckmarsh,
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The description of Admiral Pound as a "sick, worn-out figure" who was "not strong enough to cope with Churchill's personality" and "gives an entirely false impression of his condition and character and relationship with Churchill"; and the reference to Churchill's "determination to select a First Sea Lord who could be manipulated" if this implies that Pound was Churchill's choice, is very misleading. Pound was appointed First Sea Lord three months before Churchill became First Lord, and Churchill's approval of Sir Andrew Cunningham as Pound's successor four years later hardly suggests that he wanted a yes-man in the Admiralty.

The evidence of those who knew Pound—and not only that of the "private secretaries and personal assistants" whose reports Captain Roskill discusses—as all but unanimously the other way in regard to both his state of health and his character. Pound's momentary collapse when he was tired was a fact, but it was well known more than 20 years before his death, and his enjoyment of a hard day's working whenever the opportunity offered during the war, as well as his continued relaxation in driving himself in his fast car, do not support the view that he was a "sick, worn-out figure". Nor, it may be thought, would Churchill have been likely to retain for four years of war as his right-hand adviser in charge of the Navy a

man whose powers were weakening. Pound was not the man to cling to office for the selfish doubts about his fitness, and when at the time of the Quebec Conference in 1943 he was disabled by a stroke three weeks before his death he at once told Churchill (in the White House) that he could no longer do the job.

The disparagement of Sir Dudley Pound (who declined a peerage) serves to perpetuate a myth which by reputation is in danger of creating a caricature that may be accepted by posterity as a definitive portrait. The performance of the Royal Navy under his supreme direction throughout the most critical years of the war, and his own overall record, surely entitle him to be judged in the light of the fortunes as well as the misfortunes which were encountered on the way, and by the end result.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LITCHFIELD,
Snowfield,
Bearsden,
Maidstone, Kent.

From Sir Frederick Catherwood
Sir, Mr. David Wood reports today (November 7) that "North Sea oil flows in increasing abundance" but that, among other things, "poor export performance spoils the picture".

He cares to consult your Economic Correspondent he will find that exports have had an excellent year, rising in stagnant world markets by 13.7 per cent in volume in the past quarter, and that Britain's trade would still be in balance without the year's improvement in oil revenue.
Yours faithfully,
F. CATHERWOOD,
British Overseas Trade Board,
1 Victoria Street, SW1.

Mapping buried history

From the Director-General of the National Trust

Sir, Your leader of November 12 and letters from Professor Thomas (November 14), Professor Cunliffe (November 15), and others have drawn attention to the decision to disband the Ordnance Survey's specialized archaeological section.

The National Trust has learnt of this with dismay. It has in its care an immense number of antiquities and it needs to know what it owns if it is to preserve them adequately for the nation. To compile this information, the staff of the Trust have for a number of years made very extensive use of the information accumulated by the recording section and the field investigations of the Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey, and kept in their library in Southampton. Thanks to these records, good progress has been made with the preparation of hand lists of all that the Trust owns of archaeological interest; more over the right management of the Trust's properties for permanent preservation depends on this specialized knowledge being available to guide us.

The hand lists have still to be completed. They will need revision from time to time to incorporate new information which might have bearing on how a property is best looked after. The Trust does not know of any satisfactory substitute for the specialized work of the field investigators, complemented by the recording staff.

We have a high regard for the quality of their work and for its value to the practical management of antiquities. The changes now proposed seem certain to disrupt the programme of classification, description and interpretation of archaeological sites and to reduce the usefulness of the archaeological library maintained by the Ordnance Survey. May we urge that the decision is reconsidered?

Yours faithfully,
J. D. BOLES, Director-General,
The National Trust,
42 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
November 15.

From Professor R. J. C. Atkinson
Sir, Your leading article of November 12 is welcome and timely; but it does not mention the deterioration in the mapping of antiquities which has already taken place in recent years. Let me give two brief examples.

On the former One Inch scale, the 10 km National Grid square which includes Stonehenge marked 213 archaeological sites, by symbols or letters or both. My own sheet cost me three shillings (15p) in 1949. The corresponding sheet of the new 1:50,000 map costs 140p, for only 89 per cent of the area. The adoption of the new metric scale has increased the area available for legible cartographic delineation by more than 60 per cent; but in spite of this the same 10 km square now marks only 178 monuments, a reduction of 17 per cent.

At the old Six Inch scale, the complex earthworks of Maiden Castle, Dorset, were carefully delineated by draughtsmen who drew how to use a mapping pen and gave as much detail as the scale allowed. On the new 1:10,000 map the same earthworks are depicted in a crude and mechanical way, and although the space available for precise draughtsmanship is 13 per cent greater than before.

Yours sincerely,
R. J. C. ATKINSON,
The Old Rectory,
Wotton, Oxfordshire,
Cardiff,
November 12.

From Mr. John Johnston
Sir, By coincidence you report in separate parts of today's paper (November 16) on two men who combined, 33 years ago, to produce one of the rarest acts of mercy in the last war.

Dr. Graeme Warrack was the medical officer at Arrahm who pleaded with the Germans for a cease fire to enable more than a thousand wounded British soldiers to be handed over to the enemy for treatment in their hospitals.

Oversturmbeauftragter Walter Harzer was the SS officer who ensured that this was carried out.

He is one of the three SS officers who want to come to Britain to promote a book about their organization.

While deprecating his current mission, I feel the Prime Minister should know that there are quite a few veterans of that battle who have reason to feel grateful to Colonel Harzer.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN JOHNSTON,
76 Camden Hill Road, W8,
November 16.

From Mr. David Astor
Sir, As at present I hold the land on which the prehistoric Uffington White Horse and Castle stand, may I reply to the recent letter (November 4) from Henry Moor and others? For some time, I have wished to make over these monuments to the National Trust and to negotiate suitable arrangements for future car parking with the local authority. With their cooperation, I feel confident that the monuments can be protected. It would also be possible to enhance the setting in which they stand. Larger areas of downland surrounding them could be laid down to permanent grass and be made available to the public.

The principal cause of the damage has been the growing numbers of people visiting this hill for holiday and recreational purposes are at present confined in a small space. With this in mind, my advisers have evolved a plan for opening it all up. The hope is to enable visitors to disperse over a larger area and, in particular, to deal with the car problem.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ASTOR,
9 Cavendish Avenue, NW8,
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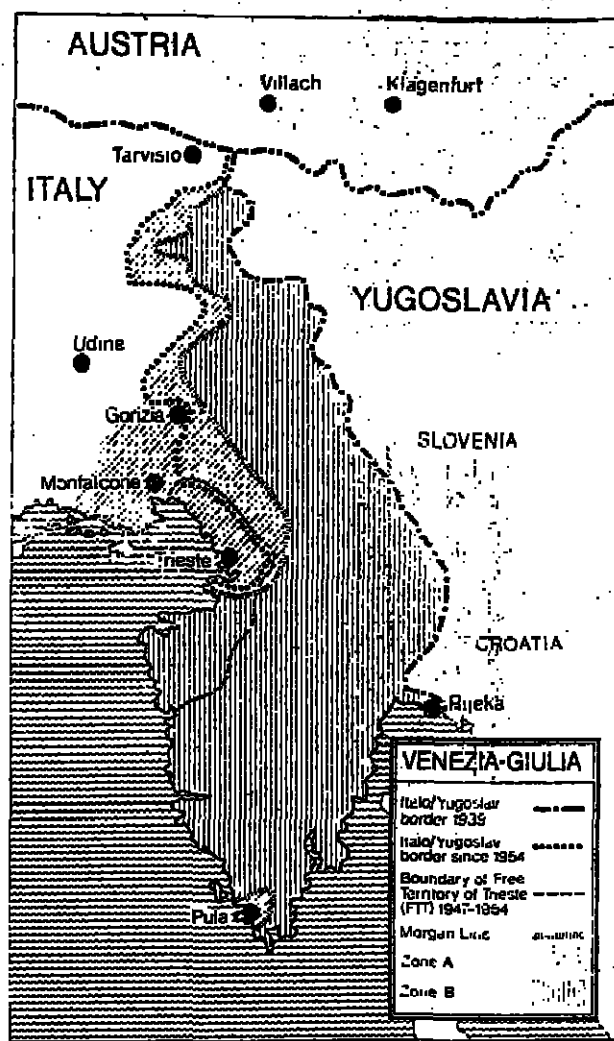
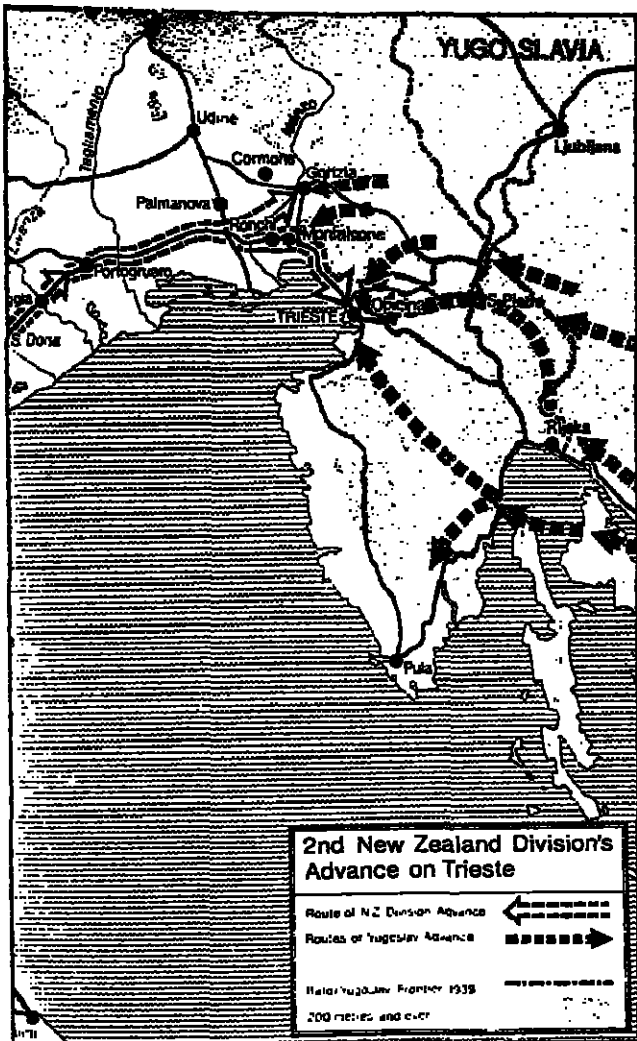
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DAVID ASTOR,
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November 16.



The brink of the Cold War

One event in postwar history which has attracted surprisingly little attention from the historians has been the confrontation between the Western Allies and the Yugoslavs in Trieste in May and June 1945. The true dimensions became apparent only when the War Cabinet papers for the period were made available under the Thirty Years rule.

Sir Geoffrey Cox, who experienced the crisis on the spot as Intelligence Officer to the New Zealand Commander General Freyberg VC, has now drawn on those papers to tell the full story of this confrontation in *The Race for Trieste*. In this extract he describes the final and decisive phase of the crisis. At each crossroads on each bridge the local Partisans and the Yugoslav troops stood in irritated silence alongside the British and American sentries. On the great cornice road which is cut into the rock above the sea between Montefiore and Trieste, our supply trucks wound in and out of the columns of marching Tito troops, some of them Mohammedans with faces as dark as Moors. In the fields, on all the strategically important hills and slopes our troops and the

Yugoslavs found themselves side by side.

I drove from Miramare into Trieste. In front of Brigadier Gentry's headquarters stood two New Zealand sentries, their bayonets fixed, their posture slack and yet alert. At the corner two Sherman tanks facing a Yugoslav Stuart tank. Opposite, some sort of Tito headquarters had been set up in a bistro which proclaimed itself to be, inappropriately enough, the "Bar Nationale". On the pavement outside a Yugoslav platoon was parading.

Outside the hotel door a few civilians were gathered. One or two were white-faced, with red-rimmed eyes, and they gazed towards the doorway as if it led to the promised land. Others were just part of a normal, unbothered Saturday afternoon crowd. The front of the hotel was marked with fresh bullet holes where the Yugoslavs had fired when a crowd had demonstrated for Italy the day before. By the waterside I could see our petrols and the Yugoslavs packing slowly up, each watching the other cautiously, cautiously. It must have been as wearying to their nerves as to ours.

Marshal Tito's reply to the British and American notes demanding his withdrawal came on Friday, May 18, one week after Truman's conference in the White House. It was a forthright "No". Tito refused to accede in any way to the Allied demands. The resolute Mr. Scovson in Belgrade did not delay either his response to the Yugoslavs, or his advice to London. "When the Yugo-

slav Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs handed me Marshal Tito's note," he reported to the Foreign Office.

I told him it seemed to me merely a repetition of Tito's counter-proposal which Field Marshal Alexander had already rejected. He confirmed this was so. I left him in no doubt that I considered Tito's reply highly unsatisfactory. I told him bluntly that His Majesty's Government and the United States Government had taken their stand on a matter of principle on which they could not and would not yield. He had nothing further to say and he was obviously acutely nervous and unhappy.

In these circumstances, the Ambassador recommended "our rejoinder to be swift and decisive". Tito should be told that unless he was prepared to accept in full within a given time limit the Allied proposals, Field Marshal Alexander should be instructed to occupy in force the whole region up to the Morgan line, as the minimum Anglo-American demand.

In London the Prime Minister was quick to urge such action on to the Americans. He was helped by two further messages from Alexander. In one the Field Marshal revised his estimate of the morale of his troops. He had earlier argued that "both the United States and British troops would be very reluctant to engage at this stage of the war in a fresh conflict against Yugoslavia". Now he asserted that their feeling against the Yugoslavs was "strong, and is getting stronger daily". In the other message he said he was no longer prepared to accept—as he had been earlier—that the Yugoslav administration in Trieste might continue to function.

The Prime Minister stressed that he did not envisage war with the Yugoslavs, but that immediate action was necessary "otherwise we shall merely appear to have been bluffing and will in fact be bluffed out". He reminded the President that Alexander had pointed out that if Tito refused either to put his troops and administration under Alexander's command, or refused to withdraw from the area, "it will inevitably lead to armed conflict, since I must very soon insist on the proper functioning of my AMG. For example, I must remove Tito's proclamations and replace them with my own. I cannot allow my movements to be restricted by Yugoslav posts or sentries."

The Prime Minister went on to argue that in these circumstances the line the President had drawn as to when American troops could or could not be used was too rigid.

President Truman was not going to be hustled by his allies any more than he had been deterred by the critics in Washington of his decision on May 11. He still saw no reason why the conflict should decline into a shooting war. One key figure in this conflict had not yet shown his hand—Joseph Stalin. The Soviet leader had been kept fully informed of the British and American notes to Tito, but he had not responded. But equally he had not given any overt sign of his support for Tito.

Truman therefore decided that we might still get our way if pressure was intensified on the Yugoslav leader, though we should still move with caution. The President had used the intervening days, while Tito considered the first message, to ensure that this display of force would be massive and convincing. He began, with some relish, to flex the formidable muscles of a fully mobilized United States.

I asked General Eisenhower if he could send three divisions to the Brenner Pass, or above Trieste. I asked Admiral King whether he could send some units of the Mediterranean Fleet to the Adriatic, and how long it would take to get them there.

I told him to alert the necessary ships. I asked General Arnold what air squadrons he could move, and I asked him to alert them.

The response of the commanders was indeed dramatic. Eisenhower reported that he was prepared to dispatch several Faxon with up to five armoured divisions to the Brenner Pass and if necessary into Italy. Admiral King reported that units of the Mediterranean Fleet had been alerted to steam into the Adriatic. General Arnold had several air force squadrons ready to move at a moment's notice. An area around Rimini was designated as an operational base. It was then, as now, the main holiday area for the industrial north and had many hotels which could be used as barracks and hospitals. In Rimini itself and in the surrounding countryside, 25,000 Italian civilians were notified that they must evacuate their homes to make way for the incoming reinforcements. On May 19 he issued an Order of the Day to the troops under his command intended in part to prepare them for possible battles ahead, in part as a blow in the war of nerves with Yugoslavia.

Our policy, publicly proclaimed, is that territorial changes should be made only after thorough study and after full consultation and deliberation between the various governments con-

cerned.

It is however Marshal Tito's apparent intention to establish his claims to Venezia Giulia and territory around Trieste and Klagenfurt by force, and by military occupation. Action of this kind would be all too reminiscent of Hitler, Mussolini and Japan. It is to prevent such actions that we have been fighting this war. It is our duty to hold these territories as trustees until their ultimate disposal is settled at the Peace Conference.

This pressure President Truman now supported by a personal cable to Stalin. On Sunday, May 20, he told the Soviet leader that Tito's reply had been unsatisfactory, and that the Americans could not accept any compromise upon the principles of an order and just settlement, and "are so informing Tito". He gave a long detailed argument of the American case, one which the Russian leader could not take on his merits. It was both a plea for his intervention against Tito, and a detailed justification, in advance, of any military actions on which the Western Allies might embark. Churchill sent a similar message to Stalin.

This powerful pressure was met by Milovan Djilas, then one of Tito's closest associates, makes plain in his latest book (*War and Peace*, Dutton, 1975) that the decisive factor was the refusal of the Soviet Union to endorse the Yugoslavs. The Allies threw us out of Trieste and its environs after the Soviet Central Committee informed us that, after such a terrible war, the USSR could not embark upon another. On May 20, the day after Alexander had issued his proclamation to the troops, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, Edvard Kardelj, called the British Ambassador to the Foreign Ministry in Belgrade, and announced that the Yugoslavs would make a major move towards acceptance of the Western demands. They were prepared to agree to Field Marshal Alexander having control of the region up to the Morgan Line, provided that the Yugoslav military representatives could participate in any Allied Military Government we would establish, and provided this AMG worked through the civil authorities, which the Yugoslavs had already set up. At the same time Tito issued a pointed rebuttal of the charges in Alexander's message. The Yugoslav leader said:

"I cannot but express my resentment and surprise at the impossible comparison that the presence of Yugoslav troops in Istria and the Slovene Littoral is similar to Hitler's, Mussolini's and Japanese methods of conquest. Such an accusation can be thrown in the face of an enemy. It cannot be thrown at a tortured ally who has been bled white and who has until now been recognized by all freedom-loving people as an example of heroism and self-sacrifice in this great war of liberation. The Yugoslav Army expelled the enemy by the might of their arms from the area up to the River Soca (the Isonzo) and beyond, and no character of conquest can be attributed to its presence in this territory."

Field Marshal Alexander's determination to have the matter settled once and for all, along the lines he wished, was almost certainly strengthened by the complete success of an astute military move he had carried out within Venezia Giulia.

He had instructed the Allied forces in the area to move forward at a number of key points so as to improve their tactical positions, occupying commanding heights in some places, key crossroads in others, better lines of communication in yet others.

"It was a plan not without its dangers," could have predicted many of the incidents, could indeed have led to the Yugoslavs taking the significant step of firing first. General Mark Clark, Commander of the Allied Fifteenth Army Group, was responsible to Alexander for both Venezia Giulia and Southern Austria, decided in particular that a powerful force of American Infantry and tanks should move through Gorizia and take up the higher and defensible ground to the east, regardless of the fact that this ground was already held by Yugoslav troops.

General Clark, never a man to shun the limelight, went forward himself with the foremost column. He has given his own account of what happened in *Calculated Risk*, Mark Clark's Memoirs.

The order for the advance was given, and a short time later I drove a jeep along the road followed by the main column in order to see how things were going. Approaching Gorizia, the road led under a railway bridge, and there the Yugoslavs had set up a road block. Our column had halted short of the bridge, waiting for the time set for all the columns to make their advance simultaneously.

"When do you advance?" I asked the column commander, as my jeep pulled up beside him.

"Right now, sir."

"All right, come along," I said and motioned my driver to proceed under the bridge, where there was a gap in the road block wide enough to allow one vehicle to pass. We buzzed past the Yugoslav guards, and the column followed us with no difficulty, although I must admit that I held my breath for several minutes for fear that some reckless guard might fire a shot. Everyone else felt the same way: nobody wanted the disaster of the last killed in the Second World War.

The Race for Trieste by Sir Geoffrey Cox, with the published version by William Kimber, £5.95.

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Setback in profit for British Airways

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Industrial disputes both within and outside the airline, plus technical problems with their Trident 3 aircraft fleet, have reduced British Airways' six-month profit by about £37m before the cost of capital borrowings and taxation.

British Airways said yesterday that their profit for the six busy summer months between April and September was £25m, compared with £29m for the same period last year.

This was on a revenue of £697m, while the revenue for the April-September period of 1976 was £656m. Profit before the cost of capital borrowings and taxation for the six summer months this year was £71m, compared with £83m in 1976. Taxation and minorities had come to £33m in 1976 (£40m in 1976).

British Airways' financial results have been affected this year by a strike of some of their engineers, by a strike of air traffic control assistants, and by the grounding of a large part of their Trident 3 fleet after the discovery of wing cracking.

Sir Frank McFadden, chairman of British Airways, reported in July a net profit of £35m for the financial year 1976-77. He said then that the strike of engineers in the spring had cost the airline £31m in lost revenue.

Coal chief urges joint effort to raise production

A way must be found by the National Coal Board and the union to reverse the industry's present downward trend in productivity, Sir Derek Ezra, the board's chairman said in South Wales yesterday.

Sir Derek, who was visiting South Wales collieries, welcomed the recent statement by NUM officials including Mr Joe Gormley, the union's president, which recognized that the union as one of the parties to the industry's investment plan, was committed to meeting the production objectives required to secure the industry's future.

"So far we are not fulfilling the prospectus we submitted to the Government—in the form of Plan for Coal—in return for the capital we need and are now getting for the modernization and expansion of the industry. We proposed to increase productivity by 4 per cent a year; instead it has been falling."

"For the moment coal is still cheaper than oil for most purposes. In the forthcoming negotiations it will be essential to maintain that price advantage. What we cannot do, as a board, is to pay out more money for less output."

Builders call for review of 'costly' system to defeat tax evasion

By John Huxley

Building leaders have urged the Chancellor to review the operation of a government scheme introduced to tackle tax abuses associated with the "lump".

The scheme—sometimes known as 714 scheme after the tax rate involved—imposes "heavy and costly administrative burdens on the industry", the National Federation of Building Trades Employers says in a memorandum to Mr Hesley.

It must be modified substantially if wasteful bureaucratic excesses are to be avoided. They point out that "initial compliance costs" for one large construction company were estimated at about £100,000. Case histories of delays and difficulties experienced by other

companies are also given in the memorandum.

The scheme was introduced in April, this year, primarily to eliminate tax evasion by workers employed on the "lump" under which sub-contractors are paid a fixed price lump sum.

It requires construction companies, as well as sole traders and partnerships to obtain exemption certificates from the Inland Revenue if they are not to suffer a statutory deduction of 34 per cent from payments due to them.

The Federation, while accepting the need to curb tax evasion, believes that the scheme's scope and coverage are unnecessarily wide.

Noting that the change to the new system called for costly study and preparation, the Federation says that most build-

ing employers found that they were involved in two capacities—both as contractors and sub-contractors.

"These two tasks together amounted to a major administrative exercise throughout the industry."

The Federation says it is deeply disturbed at the magnitude of the costs already incurred. But its main concern is the continuing administrative burden and costs.

It calls on the Inland Revenue to be reasonable and not seek to penalize companies who make "unintentional errors."

There was widespread opposition within the industry to the introduction of the present scheme. The Treasury, however, estimated that the long-standing abuse of the lump was costing about £10m a year in lost revenue.

Fewer first time house buyers get mortgages

By Margaret Stone

At a time when the Government is preparing legislation to help first-time house buyers, evidence available from the building societies indicates that 47.3 per cent of all advances in the third quarter of the year went to new owner-occupiers.

In the previous quarter nearly 50 per cent went to first-time buyers. New owner-occupiers last quarter paid an average of £10,832 for their homes and borrowed 78.6 per cent. By contrast, former owner-occupiers paid an average £16,386, of which they borrowed 56.1 per cent.

The figures are contained in statistics released yesterday by the Department of the Environment based on a 5 per cent sample survey of building society mortgages at the completion stage. In other words, the house prices listed are about six weeks out of date.

In the third quarter borrowers were buying houses at an average price of 2.63 times their average recorded income, and obtained advances on average of 1.7 times their income.

The average house price in 1973, however, was £9,942 compared with the average house price of £13,773 recorded in the third quarter of this year. (It was £13,332 the previous quarter.) In the last quarter, 10 per cent of all mortgages went on homes with an average price of less than £7,500; 63 per cent on homes below the average price of £13,773 while homes costing more than £20,000 accounted for just over 13 per cent of advances.

Regional house prices ranged from £10,782 in Yorkshire and Humberside to £16,590 in Greater London. Compared with prices a year ago, the areas where house prices are rising fastest are Northern Ireland, Scotland and northern England.

£2,000m earned overseas by construction industry

Tribute to the overseas performance of the construction industry was paid yesterday by Mr Reg Fresson, Minister for Housing and Construction.

Last year more than 25 per cent of the United Kingdom's favourable trade balance on invisible earnings came from the efforts of our building and civil engineering consultants and contractors—a point which those who praised shipping, banking and insurance would do well to remember, he told an International Congress on Construction in London.

Meetings are to be held at the plants and the 1,000 foremen, staff engineers and clerical workers at Halewood are to meet at Widdowes on Sunday to consider what, if any, industrial action to take.

The two separate strikes which have hit the Halewood plant for the past 10 days, were settled on Wednesday



Mr Reg Fresson

been active overseas for years. They have built up an enviable reputation with foreign clients in building and civil engineering contractors have a longer history of overseas operations than those of any other country.

Escort output resumes but Ford troubles not over

Production of Escort cars resumed at the Ford plant at Halewood, Liverpool, yesterday after the settlement of separate strikes which cost the company £12m in lost production.

The night shift was recalled last night.

But Halewood's problems may not be over. It was learnt that staff unions at national level had rejected the 12 per cent company pay package which the hourly-paid production workers accepted last month.

Meetings are to be held at the plants and the 1,000 foremen, staff engineers and clerical workers at Halewood are to meet at Widdowes on Sunday to consider what, if any, industrial action to take.

The two separate strikes which have hit the Halewood plant for the past 10 days, were settled on Wednesday

Pressure on Mr Carter to stimulate growth

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Nov 17

Pressures are increasing on the Carter Administration to support new policies to stimulate the economy. Latest official economic statistics strengthen the impression that the year ahead will see modest, but not substantial real economic growth.

The Federal Reserve Board announced that industrial production was estimated to have increased by 0.3 per cent last month, after an advance of 0.4 per cent in September; and the Department of Commerce announced a small gain in the growth rate of personal incomes. The increase was \$20,200m (about £11,900m) in October,

compared with a rise of \$12,400m in the previous month.

Senator William Proxmire, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, yesterday released a statement calling for a direct, meaningful tax cut at the beginning of 1978 to get the economy moving again. . . . a major cut soon should be at the top of the Carter economic agenda."

The commerce department announced today a general improvement in corporate profits in the third quarter and revised upwards gross national product figures. A greater level of growth is shown in the third quarter than had been widely predicted.

Preliminary estimates suggest that corporate profits rose by

\$7,600m in the third quarter to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$147,800m.

Last month the department said the real gnp in the third quarter rose by 3.8 per cent, but today it showed that revised figures show the rate of growth to have been 4.7 per cent.

The most striking features of the revised figures concerns the inflation rate, with the chain price index, which is viewed as the best price indicator in the gnp data, now said to have gained by only 4.4 per cent at an annual rate.

Higher exports and higher inventory investment were the main contributors to the upward revision in the gnp estimate.

In the second quarter of this year real gnp rose at an annual rate of 6.2 per cent, with the

chain price index showing a 7 per cent annual rate of gain.

Total nominal United States gnp is now close to the \$2,000,000m level, having advanced in the last quarter by 10 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,914,900m.

Calls for a tax cut are being heard with increasing frequency from both Democrats and Republicans. Democrats appear to have considerable support within the Administration.

According to the Federal Reserve, increases in industrial output were widespread among products and most materials last month. The index of industrial production has risen by 6.8 per cent during the past 12 months.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Monopolistic' attitude to computer maintenance

From Mr M. L. Eastwell

Sir, Mr P. V. Ellis, in his letter (November 8) defended ICL's computer maintenance policy by pointing out the heavy investment in diagnostic routines the company had made. His argument is unconvincing to Boeing or BAC saying that they would not release diagnostic procedures to airlines and the organizations which maintain their aircraft because they, the manufacturers, had spent so much money on working out how to keep the aircraft flying, that it was necessary to recoup the cost through subsequent maintenance contracts.

Perhaps it would be wise for Mr Ellis to have a close look at the key objectives of ICL. In other words, what is the purpose for which ICL is in business, in fact what is the purpose for which all computer manufacturers are in business. I would suggest that it is:

1. To research, design and subsequently build good computer products.
2. To market these products to computer users.
3. To provide the normal support facilities extended by manufacturers in other technical industries to their customers, such facilities being the ready supply of spare parts, diagnostics, documentation and technical support.

After all, highly technical industries such as the aircraft industry and the motor car industry provide readily to the purchaser or manager of the equipment such facilities. It is of some concern to me to know why computer suppliers, and in particular ICL, retain a monopolistic attitude to the maintenance of their equipment.

Surely the generally excellent products ICL is offering to the customer should be fully backed by provision of such diagnostic procedures in the normal course of business?

ICL is free to charge a fair price for use of such diagnostic routines, as is usually the case with various types of computer software packages. I should also point out that third party maintenance companies often develop suitable diagnostic routines in addition to those originally designed by the equipment manufacturer, to help them maintain customers' computing systems effectively.

In the USA, constrained by the Consent Decree of 1956, IBM adopted certain business practices, including:

- (a) "To offer training to outsiders in or entering the repair and maintenance business and to sell to them and IBM equipment owners certain technical documents, replacement parts and subassemblies, and instructional manuals."
- (b) "To allow customers to alter or attach equipment (with certain exceptions) and to provide instruction manuals."

IBM has complied readily, both in the USA and worldwide, whether or not IBM customers use third party maintenance. This reasonable attitude has enhanced IBM's reputation in the marketplace.

But probably the most important factor is the rapidly developing trend towards computer users purchasing equipment from a number of suppliers to create a "mixed system". Experience shows that in the event of a fault, this can lead to debates between the maintenance engineers of the various equipment suppliers as to whose equipment is causing the trouble. A third party maintenance organization usually has to accept responsibility for the total system, and get on with the job, or lose the contract. The upshot is that the user benefits.

Yours sincerely,
MAX L. EASTWELL,
General Manager, U.K.,
Data Processing Customer Engineering Pty Ltd,
81 Hereward Road,
Walton-on-Thames,
Surrey, KT12 1JY.
November 15.

Implications of Didcot for freight policy

From Mr Mick Hamer

Sir, The possible closure of the inland port of Didcot (November 15) is likely to concern not only the railway workers mentioned in your report but also all those who want to stem the ever-increasing number of heavy lorries.

With the South Africa-Southampton trade being containerized between now and the end of 1978, the forced closure of Didcot, due to unofficial action by the Transport and General Workers' Union, would cause a large increase in road freight.

The recent Transport Policy White Paper committed the Government to working for a free market in freight. Yet for a free market to work in practice the conditions of competition between road and rail must be fair. And if Didcot is forced to close that will plainly not be the case.

Didcot thus presents a major challenge to the Government's new freight policy. If the Government fails to resolve this dispute and Didcot does close, the Government's freight policy will be seen not as a free-market policy but as a pro-heavy lorry policy.

Yours faithfully,
MICK HAMER,
Director,
Transport 2000,
40 James Street, W1M 5HS.
November 15.

Architects' fees

From Mr H. B. N. Grillo

Sir, Why should the Government be so ready to act by statute against my trade union, which happens to call itself the Royal Institute of British Architects (and which does not have a monopoly of building design), setting a rate for the remuneration of its members, when any other trade union, which may have its monopoly protected by a closed shop, can make demands for the remuneration of its members which the Government is not prepared to curtail by law?

Yours faithfully,
H. B. N. GRILLO,
Mans House,
Roke Lane,
Witley,
Surrey.

Understanding the function of the City

From Mr G. E. Price

Sir, The article by Eric Moonman and the related letters of Messrs Quinlan and Ogden (October 25 and November 1) surely deserve further comment: the subject in question, the City, has a vital relevance for the people of this country.

I am sure Messrs Moonman and Ogden sincerely wish to improve the value of life in Britain, but their misplaced criticism of the City unfortunately threatens all our living standards. To suggest, as Mr Moonman does, that ignorance about the City is its great strength is a pointless observation. Ignorance is almost total in respect of most skilled occupations: coal mining, dentistry, pattern making, tool-making, whatever.

The City's strength owes nothing to ignorance. It is that those who need to use its services most fully understand its skills. But if those whom it serves—directors of companies, heads of local authorities or of

state enterprises—subsequently demonstrate the frailty of humanity by swindling the taxpayer or cheating investors or committing crimes which relate to these acts to the City?

Are the insurance companies, the merchant banks, the stockbrokers, the clearing banks to act as policemen of morality in boardrooms throughout the country?

And it really is long past the time when Members of Parliament can confess to believe that industry is being starved of capital by the inaction of the City. Money is not manufactured by the City. It certainly does not belong to the City, but the manner of its passing is directed by its owners—workers' pension funds, a great industrial company, GEC, for instance, with £500m of cash, enough to build and equip factories galore; perhaps Messrs Moonman and Ogden can put forward acceptable projects to that company's board. But neither they

nor the City have a dictate in that matter.

A City friend, head of a great pension fund, recently told me that in the space of a few weeks his fund made profits of £4m in Government securities. One man, an assistant, their efforts for a few hours, a dozen telephone calls, a dozen decisions, and they have jointly generated as much money as a coalfield of miners working for a solid three months.

I suspect my gut reaction—obscene—perverts that of Moonman and Ogden, but gut reaction is foolish if it flies in the face of reason. To the question that headed Mr Moonman's article, "Is the City really the villain some people think it is?" the answer is: "Certainly, not—rather seek to curb envy with rational reflection."

Yours faithfully,
G. E. PRICE,
47 Thomas More House,
Barbican,
London, EC2.
November 7.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NO. 73-03467
In Proceedings for the
Reorganization of a Corporation

NOTICE OF

- 1) APPLICATION FOR FINAL DECREE INCLUDING ORDER FIXING TIME FOR PARTICIPATION IN DISTRIBUTION;
- 2) APPLICATION FOR FINAL COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS AND EXPENSES; and
- 3) ENTRY OF PERMANENT INJUNCTION

TO ALL CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF EQUITY FUNDING CORPORATION OF AMERICA:

APPLICATION FOR FINAL DECREE INCLUDING ORDER FIXING TIME FOR PARTICIPATION IN DISTRIBUTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on December 12, 1977, at 10:00 a.m., Room 309, United States Courthouse, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California, a hearing will be held pursuant to Section 225 of the Bankruptcy Act (11 U.S.C. § 625) and Rule 10-339(b) of the Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure for the consideration of the Application of the Trustee for final decree, which shall (i) confirm the discharge of the Estate of Equity Funding Corporation of America, the Debtor herein (the "Estate"), from all its debts and liabilities and the termination of all rights and interests of its shareholders and creditors except as provided for in the Trustee's Amended Plan of Reorganization (dated February 25, 1976) (the "Trustee's Plan"); (ii) fix a date five years from the entry of the final decree as the last date of the period in which holders of allowed claims may participate in distribution from the Estate; (iii) approve accountings relating to cash receipts and disbursements of the Estate with respect to the period from April 5, 1973 through September 30, 1977, and Final Report covering the same period; (iv) discharge Robert M. Loeffler, Trustee herein from April 10, 1973 to October 12, 1974, and Robert A. Baker, Trustee herein from October 12, 1974 to the present date; (v) declare the Estate closed. Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time without further notice, other than the announcement of said adjourned date or dates at the hearing of December 12, 1977, or any adjournment thereof.

Said application is made on the following grounds. On February 23, 1976, the above entitled court entered Order No. B-14677, confirming the Trustee's Plan, authorizing substantial consummation of the Trustee's Plan, and making provisions auxiliary thereto. On March 21, 1976, substantially all of the assets of the Estate were transferred to Orion Capital Corporation, a Delaware corporation ("Orion"), the successor corporation to Equity Funding Corporation of America, and the above entitled court entered Order No. B-14579 declaring that the Trustee's Plan to have been substantially consummated pursuant to Section 225(a) of the Bankruptcy Act (11 U.S.C. § 625(a)) and Rule 10-339(a)(2) of the Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure. On September 30, 1977, all of the remaining assets of the Estate were transferred to Orion, Orion agreed to assume administrative liabilities of the Estate and obligations of the Trustee enumerated in an Assumption Agreement between Orion and the Trustee dated September 30, 1977, and the Trustee made provision for the distribution of monies, if and when received, to creditors in Class 6 pursuant to Paragraph 9.3(d) of the Trustee's Plan. Since all assets of the Estate have been transferred to Orion and all liabilities of the Estate have been discharged or provided for the Trustee's Plan has been consummated. Prior to the hearing, accountings relating to cash receipts and disbursements of the Estate with respect to the period from April 5, 1973 through September 30, 1977, and a Final Report for the period from April 5, 1973 through September 30, 1977 will be filed with the above entitled court.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLOSING OF THE ESTATE WILL NOT AFFECT CLAIMS FILED IN THE PENDING SETTLEMENT OF THE ACTION ENTITLED *IN RE EQUITY FUNDING CORPORATION OF AMERICA SECURITIES LITIGATION*, M.D.L. DOCKET NO. 83-MJL.

APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN COSTS AND EXPENSES OF TRUSTEE

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that on December 12, 1977, at 10:00 A.M., Room 309, United States Courthouse, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California, a hearing will be held for the consideration of the application of Robert A. Baker, Trustee herein from October 12, 1974 to the present date, for a final award of compensation and reimbursement of costs and expenses. Compensation will be applied for in the sum of \$82,000.00 for the period from October 12, 1974 through September 30, 1977, representing compensation at the rate of \$75.00 per hour. Compensation will be applied for with respect to the period from October 1, 1977 through December 12, 1977 at the rate of \$50.00 per hour, but not to exceed the aggregate amount of \$4,500.00. Reimbursement of reasonable costs and expenses will be applied for in the amount of \$866.55 for the period from October 12, 1974 through September 30, 1977, and in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00 for the period from October 1, 1977 to December 12, 1977. Interim awards of compensation and reimbursement of costs therefore paid to said Trustee will be set off against said sums. At said hearing on December 12, 1977, objections to this application will be heard. Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time without further notice, other than the announcement of said adjourned date or dates at the hearing of December 12, 1977, or any adjournment thereof.

Any written objections to said application shall be filed on or before November 29, 1977, with the Office of Bankruptcy Judge and Special Master James E. Moriarty, Room 309, United States Courthouse, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012, with copies served upon:

Robert A. Baker, Trustee
Estate of Equity Funding Corporation of America
1900 Avenue of the Stars
Los Angeles, California 90067
and
O'Melveny & Myers
Attention: Michael Newman, Esq.
611 West Sixth Street
Los Angeles, California 90017
and
Securities and Exchange Commission
Division of Corporate Regulation
Attention: Grant G. Guthrie, Associate Director
500 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20549

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF PERMANENT INJUNCTION
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that on August 30, 1977, an order was entered by the above entitled court making permanent that certain Preliminary Injunction entered April 11, 1976, being Order No. B-10844, enjoining the maintenance of actions against subsidiaries of the above-named Debtor.

ROBERT A. BAKER
Trustee
BY ORDER OF THE COURT
DATED: November 8, 1977

Business appointments Mr J. Hyde new finance director of George Salter

Mr John Hyde has been appointed financial director of the George Salter group.

Mr W. H. Everett, managing director of George Salter, becomes additionally chairman.

Mr Maurice Elderfield is to become a full-time finance member of the board of British Shipbuilders.

Mr Ian Lennox has become director of marketing at Plessey Avionics and Communications.

Mr George Inman has been appointed a director of Showers, Vine Products and Whiteways.

Mr Alan Alexander and Mr George Henderson have joined the board of the Housing Corporation.

Mr F. J. Meldrum has become a director of Barton and Sons.

Mr R. J. Goseman has joined the board of William Jacks.

Five new members of the Advisory Council on Energy Conservation have been appointed. They are: Sir Gormley Daniel, Mr R. H. Kay, Miss Betty Lockwood, Mr R. E. Morris and Mr L. V. D. Tindale.

MONEY SUPPLY

The following are the figures released for the month of the money stock, seasonally adjusted at the mid-month make-up date:

	Sterling		Percentage change over 3 months at annual rate	
	M1	M3	M1	M3
	£000m	£000m		
1976				
Aug	18.0	38.9	19.3	20.9
Sept	18.5	38.6	11.4	26.2
Oct	18.2	40.0	6.9	18.1
Nov	18.3	40.5	6.6	17.0
Dec	18.7	40.4	3.9	8.8
1977				
Jan	18.3	39.7	3.1	-3.4
Feb	18.5	39.3	3.5	-11.6
March	18.5	39.3	-3.6	-10.1
April	19.2	40.1	19.7	6.2
May	19.3	40.4	17.0	13.1
June	19.8	40.7	28.0	16.7
July	19.9	41.2	19.5	12.0
Aug	20.2	41.3	22.0	9.5
Sept	20.7	42.2	34.3	15.2
Oct	21.5	42.9	35.8	17.6

MONTHLY CHANGE IN STERLING M3 AND DOMESTIC CREDIT EXPANSION

	Sterling M3	External currency finance	Non- & for deposit liabili- ties	Domestic credit expan- sion
May	+253	-77	+219	+395
June	+303	+145	+259	+707
July	+508	-940	+139	-293
Aug	+75	-218	+74	-69
Sept	+883	-812	+55	+128
Oct	+741	-374	-68	+259

CUMULATIVE TOTAL FOR 1977/78
Annual credit expansion
Sterling M3 £m 2763 14.2 +1165 2330
Domestic credit expansion £m 2763 14.2 +1165 2330
Growth limits 1977/78
Sterling M3: 9.13%
DCE: 27.700m

Braby Leslie Ltd

Mechanical and Civil Engineers INTERIM STATEMENT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 1977

The unaudited results for the half-year ended 30th September 1977 are given below together with the comparative figures for the half-year ended 30th September 1976 and the full year ended 31st March 1977.

The results include post-acquisition turnover and profit before tax of £2,505,000 and £267,000 respectively from E. C. Payter & Company Limited acquired on 1st July 1977, and S. Briggs & Company Limited, acquired on 1st September 1977 with effect from 1st April 1977.

	Half-year ended 30th September 1977	Half-year ended 30th September 1976	Year ended 31st March 1977
	£000	£000	£000
Turnover	15,417	10,757	23,658
Trading Profit	1,212	890	1,851
Interest Payable	(56)	(82)	(138)
PRE-TAX PROFIT	1,156	808	1,515
Taxation (note 1)	(447)	(301)	(294)
NET PROFIT after taxation and before extraordinary items	709	507	1,221
Extraordinary items	—	—	(596)
Earnings per Ordinary Share	709	507	1,221
Earnings per Ordinary Share assuming full tax charge at 52%	6.6p	6.1p	10.5p
Net tangible assets per Ordinary Share	73.7p	66.3p	70.2p

NOTES:
1.—The low taxation charge is due to the fact that provision has been made for deferred taxation only to the extent that there is reasonable probability that stock values will reduce in the foreseeable future.
2.—The earnings and net tangible assets per Ordinary Share at 30th September 1977 have been based on 8,417,817 shares deemed to have been in issue from 1st April 1977.

In the Interim Statement to shareholders, the Chairman, Mr. Eric Izod, makes the following points:

- An interim dividend of 2p (gross 3-0303p) per share has been declared for the year ending 31st March 1978, compared with 1.75p (gross 2-6223p) paid last year.
- The Board expects, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, to recommend a final dividend of 3.25p (gross 4-9242p) for the year ending 31st March 1978, making a total of 5.25p (gross 7-9545p) per share. For the previous year dividends will amount to 4-5423p (gross 6-9231p) per share.
- S. Briggs & Company Limited was acquired for a consideration of £736,582 as from 1st April 1977. Its brewing equipment complements and expands the Group's range of bulk storage equipment.
- The mechanical engineering companies have had a satisfactory half-year and demand continues to be good.
- In a difficult civil engineering climate, George Leslie Limited and Tam's Loup Quarries Limited have achieved results higher than expected and are currently operating at a satisfactory level.
- The run-down of Cable Lines Limited has proceeded smoothly; contracts have been exchanged for the sale of the freehold property in Nottingham for £115,000 (book value £39,460).

We have eliminated current losses at Cable Lines Limited and believe adequate provisions have been made for rectification work etc. We also have the benefit of recent acquisitions. Having regard to the current order books in the Group, we are confident that unless there are unforeseen circumstances outside our control, our expansion will be maintained.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Towards higher interest rates

It never rains but it pours for the monetary authorities. Having moved to save their money supply target by ceasing to pump sterling into the foreign exchange market, they immediately find themselves faced with the possibility that bank lending to the private sector may be on the verge of growing far more rapidly than expected. Last month it grew by almost £500m (seasonally adjusted), taking the annualized rate of increase after six months up to just over 24.500m.

To what extent the figure for the latest month will prove a quirk remains to be seen and the authorities are, as I suggested yesterday, unlikely to be panicked into counter measures just yet. But were bank lending to remain at a relatively high level from now on, the authorities task in getting back inside the projected 13 per cent ceiling for sterling M3 growth by next April will obviously be formidable.

To meet the ceiling, growth in sterling M3 needs to be restricted to under £2,500m over the second six months of the year, a period moreover when the public sector contribution to monetary growth is going to be more positive than it has been in the opening six months.

How the authorities might react if they find themselves in a corner by Christmas is a matter of speculation. There could be a temptation to press the case that exceptional factors in the first half of 1977-78—albeit of their own making—provide mitigating circumstances and that what is important is the future trend.

It would certainly be interesting to see how such an attitude would wash in financial markets. The danger would not only be that such a line would not only serve to compound the problem but also undermine credibility in the flexibility the authorities would like to give themselves through the introduction next spring of rolling money supply targets. Meanwhile, one way or the other, the day of the upward correction in short-term interest rates looks to be drawing steadily closer.

Shell

Currency distortions

Stripping out the by-now ritual currency distortions, the message from Shell's third quarter results is that world oil products markets remain extremely sluggish and are likely to remain so for at least the next two or three quarters. And the figures fell just far enough short of stockmarket expectations to leave the shares 11p easier at 564p.

Underlining the kind of smokescreen currencies have become at Shell, third quarter net income of £329m bears no comparison at all with last year's £170m. Then net income had to contend with currency losses of £178m whereas for the same period this year there has been a

During the fourth quarter fuel oil and natural gas should show their seasonal pattern but set against that there could be further stock losses percolating through from July's Opec price rise and the rise in sterling. Full year net income should still fall in the £1,350-£1,400m range for a prospective p/e ratio of just under 6. The sluggish oil market, however, is likely to squeeze Shell's downstream operations more than the crude-rich British Petroleum although Shell's ease is still its yield attractions when it is free to pay up the 21p of stored up dividends.

Beecham

Impetus from overseas

Given evidence of flat demand in Europe reflected in recent results from Courtauld and Unilever, the 19 per cent improvement in Beecham's profits for the half-year to September at £70.6m come as a pleasant surprise, although the comparative figures have been adjusted to take out currency gains.

While profits in the United Kingdom, were up, apparently, by around £1m, despite heavy involvement in soft drinks, which suffered from the poor summer weather, the real growth areas seem to have been in the Far East for consumer products and in North and South America with pharmaceuticals.

This is despite a natural slowing down in the growth of the amoxycillin antibiotics, which have been such a boon to the group. But with ever greater penetration of the new drugs throughout world markets, further growth must be limited, and unlike Glaxo, Beecham apparently has no new major drugs coming to the market in the near couple of years.

There are other growth possibilities. Calgon, in the United States, which was loss-making after a major expansion programme appears to be moving ahead faster than expected, although the contribution in the half, after interest charges, appears negligible, and prospects in the third world remain good.

However currency effects will be more marked in the second half and profit estimates for the year are around £150m. Against Glaxo, the attractions of the shares are that the 200 per cent dividend increase as an indirect result of the Calgon acquisition, has given a yield of 4.5 per cent at 625p, although its growth prospects do not look quite so good.

Redland

Holding the line

Redland continues to make the best of severely depressed conditions in the construction industry. In fact, at the interim stage profits are actually up by 7 per cent at £17.8m. But Redland has relied heavily on its associate companies particularly in Australia for much of the running; they managed an improvement in profits of around a third to £4.25m.

At home conditions remain bleak with a 3 per cent sales increase to £59m masking an overall drop in volume of around 8 per cent, with exceptional growth in the brick division compensating for volume falls of as much as 10 per cent in roof tiles and aggregates stretching to 35 per cent in the concrete pipes business.

Apart from Australia the picture is almost as dreary overseas. West Germany still shows few signs of staging a construction recovery. However, Redland is already beginning to see some benefits from new ventures particularly in the Middle East. Profits this year look like being around £37m for a p/e ratio of just over 8 with the shares at 130p. Here the dividend yield would be under 5 per cent but cover, assuming adoption of ED19, would be around 4.1 times.

As for next year, housing provides some room for optimism since private and public starts are expected to climb to 290,000. Together with more money going back into public spending on construction projects, there is some scope in the shares, particularly if dividend restraints are removed.

Techniques that provide action replays of sports events on television can play important roles also in industry, medicine and defence. A magic box of video tricks has been opened up, whose full contents have yet to be explored.

The techniques are based on the digital processing of video images. Digital processing of facts and figures in computers has been a familiar business for many years. Now sounds and pictures, too, can be electronically manipulated in digital form. Among the world leaders in this field are Micro Consultants of Caterham, Surrey, and their Quantel subsidiary, which have specialized in digital video processing and computer-based data-handling systems. The parent company claims to have been the first to market a system capable of changing colour television signals into digital form and back again into pictures with no loss of quality.

Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

Opening up the magic picture box

Quantel has concentrated on a range of equipment designed for television broadcasting organizations. Different "black boxes" handle different functions, but all are based on the use of microcircuit "frame stores"—solid-state memory units which can store all the digital electronic information needed to reproduce single frames of high-quality colour television pictures, or to correct other faults. Previously the scene would have to be re-shot; or transferred to film, corrected and then transferred back again to magnetic tape.

In sports television coverage the Quantel device can provide special optical effects that formerly could be achieved only with editing on film. Part of a football match, for instance, could be played back not only in slow motion but after zooming in to enlarge and follow the man with the ball.

The ability to manipulate pictures by means of digital techniques can be applied in many areas other than broad-

casting—in medical X-ray work, in infra-red imaging, in commercial art and in a wide range of scientific, industrial, military and police activities. By linking digital video processing with the power of the microcomputer, Micro Consultants have produced "Intellect", a self-contained system for generating and processing pictures. It is a general-purpose tool, tailored to specific jobs by appropriate computer programming.

Many applications are concerned with the selective interpretation of measurements (test of medical or scientific information) so that the user, in effect, sees the part of the resulting picture that he wishes to see. In X-ray processing, for example, a conventional radiograph contains much unwanted detail which may obscure the main subject of interest. The unwanted detail can be "filtered out" to improve the picture.

Medical information on an X-ray picture can thus be selectively enhanced. The same principle can be applied in the case of military surveillance—for example, with an image of a wood containing enemy vehicles. Another military application would be to provide security coding of images—the video equivalent of a "scrambled" telephone conversation. In traffic control, it would be possible (but expensive) to develop a system in which a television camera would automatically track particular vehicles and, if necessary, display their speeds.

The digital video techniques would enable more realistic Photofit pictures to be produced by the police. The principle would be the same as in conventional assembly of line drawings of parts of the face, but the resulting pictures, using photographs as the base, would be more realistic and could show more detail.

Will Hitachi become the enemy within the walls?

An unconfirmed report going the rounds of government circles in Helsinki could herald yet another move in the complex puzzle game being played out in this country. The game is over the Hitachi plan to start manufacturing television sets in North-East England.

So many issues, from fears of a net loss of jobs to the question of allowing into the country what could be savage foreign competition, have been raised by the Hitachi affair that Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, has understandably put off a decision for the time being.

But the word in Helsinki is that a company called Salora in which Hitachi has a 20 per cent interest and in which the Finnish government also has a stake. Hitherto the Japanese electronics giant has been the main force behind Finnish production would be aimed at the expanding Russian market for colour television sets.

The British electronic components industry, already sceptical of Hitachi's intentions in the British market, does not see how this argument can hold water. Its reasoning is that for the Finnish plant to operate economically, a production of some 800,000 tubes a year would be necessary and it doubts whether the Russian market could absorb all that.

Certainly, the view of Mullard, which is now Britain's sole remaining colour television tube producer, has been that the bulk of the Finnish production would be destined for the West European market.

In one of the many moves in the game, Hitachi appeared to have dealt with that one by making a formal offer to buy from Mullard the compact 110 degree tubes it needs (mainly for sets to be exported to Europe, where the 110 degree system is more popular). Hitachi is happy about the technical changes needed to marry Mullard tubes with Hitachi sets, though Mr Jack Akerman, Mullard's managing director,

has left a question mark over the deal by saying that for the moment he is not "absolutely satisfied" technically.

If the Helsinki speculation is right, will it in the end be in the British interests for Hitachi to import Finnish tubes for use as its North-East plant?

Or could British set makers take up tubes in an offset deal? If so, would that affect their contracts with Mullard? One could also well ask if the Government allows Hitachi to go ahead with its factory at Washington new town, near Newcastle upon Tyne, and Mullard makes a deal to supply one third of the initial tube needs, what will be the position in 1984? By then, given that 1980 is Hitachi's first year of production, the Japanese company's subsequent three-year production would be 100,000 in three to five years. At least 40 per cent of that would be for British components is promised, rising to 50 per cent if a deal with Mullard on 110 degree tubes is completed.

The underwriting covers rates of production, starting at about 70,000 sets initially and rising

Derek Harris

to 100,000 in three to five years. At least 40 per cent of that would be for British components is promised, rising to 50 per cent if a deal with Mullard on 110 degree tubes is completed. Mr Akerman's view is succinct: "Those first few years will be as smooth as silk. But then—watch out. In Japan they are planning for the year 2000. They want to dominate the electronic equipment world and as we have said consistently, we don't blame them."

In Mr Akerman's view the main problem for the British industry is not whether Hitachi produces in Britain or not but that the industry has the capacity to produce between 2,500,000 and three million sets a year when it is actually achieving only a little over 1,500,000.

This is essentially why the prospect of Hitachi buying some of its tubes does not excite Mullard.

There has been persistent speculation that one or more of the set-makers might decide to pull out. It has centred particularly on Rank, even though Rank has a substantial slice of the market—about 9 per cent, roughly the same as IIT and not far behind GEC.

Philips, including Pre-Mullard, too, is a subsidiary of the Dutch electronics group—has about 25 per cent of the television set market and Thorn the

biggest slice at about 30 per cent.

Imports from Hitachi, the company recently disclosed, account for some 4 per cent of the United Kingdom set market. Its nearest Japanese rival is Sony, with about 2 per cent. Sony already assembles sets in the United Kingdom.

If a set maker closed it would, of course, mean the loss of jobs. This aspect of the Hitachi affair has attracted the attention of MPs, the TUC and individual trade unions, which are showing increasing signs of worry at a net adverse employment effect from the Hitachi factory. They represent a strong lobby of which the Government has to take account in reaching a decision on the Washington project.

Also, if Hitachi gets its foothold, the British set makers expect to be forced by increased competitive pressures to buy as cheaply as they can abroad at the expense of contracts with Mullard.

There has been talk of up to 2,000 jobs being put at risk at Mullard by 1980 if this happens, but what Mullard would presumably be forced to do would be to close its newest factory at Durham which produces compact tubes and employs some 1,500 people. The future of its Sionstone plant in Lancashire, which produces a variety of components seems more assured, with tooling up taking place for a limited production run of the less compact but cheaper 90 degree tubes still favoured by many United Kingdom set makers.

On the other hand, if the Washington factory did not go ahead, the Radio Industry Council sees no hindrance to a developing plan for the British set makers to buy between 60 and 65 per cent of their tube requirements from Mullard. It has been estimated that this should allow Mullard, at present producing about 1,100,000 tubes a year, to trade at a profitable level. Break-even for Mullard has been put at 1.5 million tubes a year.

The set makers would buy Mullard tubes at the expense of present imports, mainly



An example of a Japanese plant at work in Britain: a Sony engineer and Welsh worker at the company's Bridgend, South Wales factory.

from Japan and the United States.

A new study * of the Hitachi project by the industry standing committee of the Tory Bow Group, includes some conclusions that echo those of Mr Akerman. The committee makes the point that a plant manufacturing only 100,000 sets a year would appear to fly in the face of commercial logic, particularly as a range of different screen sizes and chassis would be involved.

Hitachi's aim, the committee suggests, might therefore be to integrate the United Kingdom plant into its overall production, including in-house production of components, so as to enhance its competitiveness. The committee thinks it possible that Hitachi would use Finnish tubes, the cheapest in Europe, to disrupt both the British set makers and the components industry, at first undermining the tube industry and eventually destroying it.

With the supply of a key component—tubes, accounting for about half of bought-in component costs and up to 30 per cent of the ex-factory price of a set—in the hands of an overseas competitor, the long-term survival of the British set-making industry would be seriously threatened,

the committee suggested.

The Bow Group, which favoured a go-ahead for Hitachi with safeguards, reached its decision only partly because it was predictably against protectionism. With Europe clearly the next target for the Japanese after scooping so much of the United States market in a savage price war, Hitachi, if it could not find a European base in Britain, would presumably go to West Germany. This would be the next best option as far as a large base market was concerned, the committee pointed out, but the British industry would still suffer.

Other tactical considerations aside, this is the cardinal argument for allowing the Japanese to base themselves in Britain, thus at least getting the benefit of their investment and the jobs it would produce—unless, of course, there were overall EEC action to avoid the extent of the penetration suffered in the United States market, at least until the Japanese showed greater willingness to let in European exports.

That could be the next hand but one in this seemingly interminable poker game. *Japanese Investment or Trade Protection? Bow Publications, 40p.

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Business Diary: Elderfield ahoy • Trade-a-secret

British Shipbuilders has at last found itself a finance man, Maurice Elderfield, finance director of Ferranti, to serve as a full-time member of the board. Elderfield takes up his new job on December 1, leaving the only full-time post at the state body, that of personnel member, to be filled.

It will be recalled that the mass resignations of executive members of the organizing committee, British Shipbuilders last winter, sparked off the departure of Graham Day, the chief executive designate, left the Department of Industry with the task of scouting around for new talent.

Elderfield has now accepted the job that would have gone to Pat Griffith, full-time finance director of the organizing committee and one of three executives who resigned in January largely as the result of frustration over delays in getting the state shipbuilding concern off the ground.

The new man, who is 51, should prove to be well qualified to oversee the financial aspects of a nationalized industry. His previous experience posts with Forrester, Land, Timber and Railway Company and the Stephens Group but in 1960 he began a 13-year stint with the South Eastern Gas Board rising to board member and director of finance.

For the next two years he was director of finance for the Southern Water Authority and since 1975 has been with the Post Office as board member for finance followed by his present job at the NES-controlled Ferranti.

Ferranti by Harry Kirkham, who has been with the group for at least 20 years and is presently the company accountant. We asked what Elderfield's salary would be, but nobody in the state corporation would tell us. Open government, you know.

American government officials and businessmen in the United States have been complaining loudly for a long time that the Japanese have devised all manner of methods to keep out American goods.

So loud have these cries grown that the Japanese have decided to reveal a few trade secrets.

The United States and Japanese governments have agreed to create a bi-partisan "US-Japan Trade Facilitation Committee" to teach Americans how to sell to Japan.

Moreover, the Japanese are going to help the Americans to make their export promotion programmes more effective by studying ways of changing the Japanese distribution and sales system. According to American authorities the plan is designed to explore "ways to reduce or eliminate specific difficulties United States firms encounter with Japanese trade practices and procedures".

JOIN THE ARMY
LEARN A TRADE AS
FIREMAN
POWER WORKER
MINER
LIFT ATTENDANT
ETC., ETC.

This new effort will have proved itself indeed.

No prizes for guessing what share Barclays Unicorn has just added to the portfolio of its mythical Unicorn Jubilee unit trust. (Clue: Princess Anne went home from hospital yesterday.) For the benefit of republicans, the answer is Mothercare.

The fund, "launched" on February 6, anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne, is made up of shares with regal sounding names. The list includes Coronation Syndicate, Court Brothers, Greene King, Imperial Group, Prince of Wales Hotel, and Royal Sovereign Pencil to name but a random few.

And guess what? It has done remarkably well. Twelve of the 17 shares have risen and the overall gain is 54 per cent compared with a rise of 22 per cent in the FT Ordinary Index. Royalists and republicans alike can be forgiven for wishing the fund was real.

My quest for long-winded company names has prompted a response from John Edwards, chief of the Certification Office for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations (which verges on the verbose itself).

He can't help with any more companies, but kindly offers these two beauties from the statutory list kept by his office. On the employers' association side there is the magnificent "Essex and Hertfordshire Representative Provincial Organization of Local Authority Employers (for Administrative, Professional, Technical and Clerical Services and Manual Worker Services)".

The trade unions are not to be outdone by the employers, however, and spring back with the shorter and by no means negligible "Lancashire, Dorset, Fife, Case and General Woodworkers' Friendly, Relief, Sick, Superannuation and Burial Society".

Former SS colonels may not be so welcome outside West

LONDON & PROVINCIAL SHOP CENTRES

Results for year ended 24th June, 1977

- Profits have increased by 34% to £437,000 derived solely from rental income.
- Properties held for investment will be professionally revalued next year and it is estimated that there will be an increase over book value.
- The major development programme is progressing satisfactorily; three buildings are under construction at a cost of £4.4m., including Westpoint, an 80,000 sq. ft. air-conditioned office block in Slough, Berkshire.
- A £2m. property sale has further improved the Group's financial strength.
- Annual rental income will be increased by £660,000 progressively over the next ten years from rent reviews, based on current rental values.

	1977	1976
Rental income	1,030,000	807,000
Profits before tax	437,000	326,000
Properties	18,391,000	20,005,000
Net assets per share	101p	103p
Gross dividend	11.18p	10.16p

Report and accounts available from The Secretary, London & Provincial Shop Centres (Holdings) Ltd., 28, South Street, London, W1Y 5PJ

THE BRITISH & COMMONWEALTH SHIPPING COMPANY LIMITED

INTERIM STATEMENT

The Board has declared an interim dividend of 4.25p per Ordinary Stock Unit of 50p in respect of the year ending 31st December, 1977 (1976-4p).

The increase in the interim dividend utilises 0.25 pence out of a total increase permitted under present legislation for the Company's year 1977 of 0.90313 pence per Ordinary Stock Unit.

The dividend will be payable on 10th January, 1978, to stockholders registered at the close of business on 9th December, 1977.

A statement, with explanatory notes, is given below, showing the estimated Group profit for the six months to 30th June, 1977, with comparative figures for the corresponding period of the previous year and the actual figures for the year 1976.

UNAUDITED GROUP PROFITS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1977

NOTE	6 months to 30th June 1977	6 months to 30th June 1976	Actual year to 31st Dec 1976
	£'000	£'000	£'000
GROSS REVENUE	117,300	102,000	218,100
PROFIT FROM SHIPPING, AVIATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES	17,395	15,107	30,382
PROFIT ON SALE OF SHIPS	—	1,832	3,392
	17,395	16,939	33,774
DEPRECIATION	7,061	6,822	13,458
INTEREST PAID in respect of trading assets	1,467	1,302	2,514
	8,528	8,124	15,972
OPERATING PROFIT	8,867	8,815	17,802
OTHER INCOME	—	—	—
Portfolio investments	1,499	1,156	2,348
Associated companies	436	130	1,663
Other investments	334	199	2,456
Interest received	2,590	1,680	4,517
	4,859	3,165	10,984
LESS: Other interest paid	1,832	1,561	3,602
	3,027	1,604	7,382
	11,894	10,419	25,184
TAXATION	—	—	—
Tax credits on U.K. dividends	393	—	810
Other taxation	5,648	5,145	12,295
	6,041	5,145	13,105
MINORITY INTERESTS	5,853	4,962	12,079
	1,087	846	1,825
PROFIT BEFORE EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS	4,766	4,116	10,254
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS	—	—	(2,145)
ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH & COMMONWEALTH SHIPPING COMPANY LIMITED	4,766	4,116	8,109
EARNINGS PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT OF 50p	14.7p	12.7p	31.6p

NOTE: Earnings per ordinary Stock Unit are calculated on the profit after taxation (before extraordinary items) attributable to stockholders.

NOTES	6 months to 30th June 1977	6 months to 30th June 1976	Actual year to 31st Dec 1976
	£'000	£'000	£'000
1. OPERATING PROFIT	8,867	8,815	17,802
Shipping	1,499	1,156	2,348
Air transport	436	130	1,663
Aviation Support Services	334	199	2,456
Leisure Industry (See Note)	2,590	1,680	4,517
Office Equipment	707	377	—
Other Activities	1,327	1,312	—
	9,522	7,628	—
Profit on Sale of Ships	—	1,832	3,392
Realised Currency Loan Losses	(655)	(645)	—
	(655)	1,187	—
	8,867	8,815	—

NOTE: Owing to the seasonal nature of the business of hotel operating the results for the half-year to June will not be maintained in the second half of the year.

2. TAXATION
The charge for taxation for the six months ended 30th June, 1977, gives an effective rate of 35.08%. The charge for the six months ended 30th June, 1976, has been adjusted to correspond with the effective rate of 54.02% on the profits for the year 1976.

3. ASSOCIATED COMPANIES
In accordance with previous practice, attributable profits of associated companies have been included in the estimated results for the respective half-years and actual results for the year to 31st December, 1976, to the extent only of dividends received or declared within the appropriate periods.
The advent of containerisation of the South African trade and the consequent increase in the shareholding in Overseas Containers Ltd., effective from 1st September, 1977, means that from that date the profits of a major part of the shipping activity will be represented by an increased share of profits arising within Overseas Containers Ltd.
Having regard to this fundamental change, it has been decided to amend the previous basis of accounting for the results of associated companies and to include in the Profit & Loss Account for the year ending 31st December, 1977, the attributable profits of the principal associated companies of the Group, South African Marine Corporation Ltd. is not regarded by the Directors as an associated company.

4. FORECAST FOR THE YEAR
Present indications are that the profit for the year (including the attributable results of the principal associated companies) after taxation and deduction for minority interests but before any extraordinary items will show a satisfactory increase as compared with the profit of £9,360,000 achieved in 1976.
17th November, 1977.

Davis makes more in six months than in year

By Ronald Pullen

Continued improvement from the rental operations and the strong showing of the Ford dealership network have helped Godfrey Davis to a much-improved first half.

Pre-tax profits at the six months to the end of September jumped from £1.42m to £2.55m—some £1,100,000 more than the whole of the past year.

The rental side has benefited especially from the high utilisation of the car fleet while the strength of the second-hand car market has meant good profits on the disposal of the hire fleet.

At the long end prices had slipped one quarter by mid-morning but held steady at that level until the selling became more persistent at around 3.30 pm.

By the official close falls ranged between three-quarters and a full point though bargain hunting after hours put many stocks a quarter firmer again.

Though off the bottom shorter maturities lost three-eighths.

The lack of genuine investment demand makes it extremely difficult for observers to discern a trend in a volatile and professional market.

But little is now heard of the index seeking new peaks and it is likely that the "beats" will continue to hold sway until the course of the current round of

Stock markets

Investors stay on strike despite Beecham

With industrial jitters continuing to keep the big investors on the sidelines, figures from Beecham provided dealers with a crumb of comfort in an otherwise gloomy session.

The unresolved firmament's strike and the prospect of similar militancy from other groups of public sector workers bore heavily on early sentiment and the mood was not helped by a depressing set of money supply figures.

The course of the day was well illustrated by the FT index which was 4.5 down by midday but an hour later had firmed a full three points after the Beecham statement.

By the close it was 3.3 off 481.0. The growth in money supply had a more pronounced effect on the gilt-edged market, with both ends of the range falling sharply as sellers, some of them reported to be overseas, came in late in the session.

At the long end prices had slipped one quarter by mid-morning but held steady at that level until the selling became more persistent at around 3.30 pm.

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Though off the bottom shorter maturities lost three-eighths.

The lack of genuine investment demand makes it extremely difficult for observers to discern a trend in a volatile and professional market.

But little is now heard of the index seeking new peaks and it is likely that the "beats" will continue to hold sway until the course of the current round of

pay negotiations becomes clearer.

After an active session Beecham's shares settled 5p to the good at 625p by the close.

But Unilever continued to retreat after Wednesday's figures losing another 14p to 528p and GEC 5p to 248p also lost ground in front of figures due in the near future.

There were signs of firmness in an XCI up 4p to 368p, Dunlop, 2p better at 94p and Fisons which jumped 5p to 385p after the chief executive's predictions made to the German press.

On the takeover front Leisure & General rose 20p to 65p after newsworthy terms from Ladbroke which asked a couple of pence to 187p. First Castle which has a near 15 per cent stake in L & G jumped no less than 18p to 39p.

After the terms for Glenlivet there was a good deal of speculation among dealers with typical rises coming from MacDonald Martin up 30p to 260p, Tomatin 5p to 83p and A. Bell 6p to 360p. The prospect of a battle between Glenlivet itself 30p to 460p.

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	pence	pence	pence	date	total
Alida Pack (I)	4.6(3.5)	0.33(0.27)	1.4(1.2)	2.2(2.0)	—	(5.6)
Amber Ind (I)	5.2(4.2)	0.18(0.12)	0.30(0.23)	—	—	(5.6)
Beecham (I)	419.0(350.4)	70.6(59.4)	25.8(22.34)	8.5(7.8)	—	(6.1)
Bellway (F)	30.3(26.0)	1.3(1.2)	3.4(3.5)	1.3(1.3)	—	2.6(2.5)
L. Berner (F)	4.3(3.7)	0.15(0.01)	0.50(1.20)	0.75(NH)	—	(2.9)
B. & C. Ship (I)	0.8(0.7)	0.08(0.07)	0.78(0.7)	—	2/1	0.75(NH)
Black Arrow (I)	2.6(2.5)	0.14(0.07)	1.8(0.9)	0.6(0.3)	20/12	(0.8)
Brady Leslie (I)	15.4(10.7)	1.1(0.80)	8.4(8)	2.0(1.75)	13/1	5.25(4.5)
B. & C. Ship (I)	13.9(10.2)	1.1(0.80)	14.7(12.7)	4.2(4)	10/1	(0.5)
Calsonic Ind (I)	2.9(2.8)	0.38(0.32)	1.3(1.2)	1.3(1.2)	10/1	(2.7)
Caledonia Ind (I)	2.9(2.8)	1.5(1.5)	5.19(4.84)	5.75(5.33)	11/1	(7.5)
C.C.R. Ind (I)	1.8(1.6)	0.08(0.04)	—	—	—	(NH)
Codewind (I)	2.6(1.4)	0.2(0.1)	0.2(0.1)	0.2(0.1)	23/12	0.8(0.7)
Comet Ind (F)	40.0(29.9)	2.5(1.4)	9.6(4.9)	0.7(0.7)	—	(2.99)
Field Bros (I)	5.3(4.1)	0.28(0.14)	1.0(0.63)	1.44(1.3)	17/1	(0.74)
First Castle (I)	11.8(9.5)	1.0(0.93)	8.6(4.83)	1.44(1.3)	6/2	(16.2)
Int. Train (I)	11.8(9.5)	1.0(0.93)	8.6(4.83)	1.44(1.3)	6/2	(16.2)
Kayser Bendor (I)	6.8(7.2)	0.38(0.28)	—	—	—	(1.3)
Messina (Trans) (I)	14.2(11.0)	0.02(0.02)	26(129)	10(25)	—	(1.3)
Nat. Carbons (I)	1.0(0.85)	0.05(0.02)	0.96(0.22)	0.8(0.7)	5/1	2.85(2.45)
Nth Amer. Tel (F)	1.4(1.2)	0.7(0.625)	7.29(6.25)	1.0(1.0)	16/12	(2.5)
Ocean Wilsons (I)	17.1(17.2)	1.7(1.737)	2.09(1.73)	1.6(1)	18/1	(10.0)
Redland (I)	59.7(57.0)	1.7(1.737)	2.09(1.73)	1.6(1)	18/1	(10.0)
Scs & Mrc Ind (F)	0.41(0.42)	0.04(0.03)	0.04(0.03)	0.04(0.03)	22/12	3.01(2.6)
Supra (I)	—	0.18(0.05)	4.8(1.23)	0.81(0.73)	—	0.81(0.73)
Valor Co (F)	—	0.04(0.03)	3.09(1.33)	0.70(0.63)	—	(1.8)
Viner Ind (I)	—	0.05(0.03)	1.72(1.1)	0.6(0.5)	—	(1.7)
Viner Ind (I)	—	0.05(0.03)	1.72(1.1)	0.6(0.5)	—	(1.7)
Yokogawa Ind (F)	—	0.04(0.03)	0.04(0.03)	0.04(0.03)	1/2	(NH)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividends by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a—loss; b—forecast; c—tends.

Terms for Norwest Holst had the shares 2p ahead at 80p while Crane Fruchant eased to 91p before it was known that Inchcape had come with another counter.

Opinions were divided about the merits of quarterly figures from Shell but in the end the bears won the day and the shares closed 13p off at 564p.

Royal Dutch dipped 1p to 545p. Elsewhere in the sector OIL Exploration again attracted speculative attention and the end was 15p ahead at 301p. Amos Hinton, one of the smaller supermarket groups, pleased with figures and jumped 7p to 52p after doubled profits. Kwik Save reacted from the strength of recent days closing 4p off to 216p while Tesco slipped a penny to 44p in front of figures due soon.

In the building sector Redland pleased with figures and in spite of a bout of last minute nervousness the shares ended a penny better at 130p. Marley held steady at 80p in sympathy but the contractors came under selling pressure with both Taylor Woodrow at 425p and

Costain at 270p ending six pence lower. The speculative Johnson Richards Tiles lost 8p to 312p but Marchwiel attracted support and rose 4p to 268p to go against the trend.

Elsewhere speculation lifted Carverway 10p to 183p and Norton & Wright benefited from comment with a jump of 12p to 138p.

Bulmer & Lumb, 43p and Valor 40p, two mentioned here, both ended unchanged after figures.

In financials, the merchant banks reacted from some recent solid performances with Schroders off 10p to 430p. Mercury Securities 12p to 127p, Arbuthnot Latham 5p to 285p and Kleinwort Benson 4p to 108p.

The firemen's strike and this week's big rights issue continued to depress insurances, notably Sun Alliance down 7p to 548p, Refuge 4p to 132p, Pearl 4p to 252p and Royal 3p to 382p.

In subdued properties the pick were Stock Conversion, better by 4p to 234p, Chesterfield

3p to 295p and Land Securities 3p to 208p. Stores were hit far worse than average by selling with Gus "A" 10p lower to 318p, House of Fraser 6p off at 139p and British Home Stores down 4p to 215p.

In shipping's figures from British & Commonwealth met with a good response, the shares rising 5p to 261p. Others to score gains after statements were J. Billam 2p to 38p, Cock-

With its products selling cheaply in London than abroad second quarter profits from Westwood are expected to show the extent to which the group has cashed in on last summer's tourist trade. Dealers are looking for three months profits up from £2m to £2.6m giving a total for the half year of £3.2m against £3.8m. With more than 60 per cent of production going for export, the United States, the biggest market, is thought to have performed particularly well. The shares were at 220p.

sedge 10p to 68p, United Scientific 1p to 245p. But Alida Packaging slipped 4p to 101p. Gold shares rallied late in the shares to end with some strong rises in certain cases. Among the best were W. Drieffontein, up £1.50 to £18.25, President Steyn 50p to £6.25, and President Brand where the final gain was 75p to £8.75.

After hours EMI at 207p and Courtaulds 112p were leaders to haul a penny or two but GEC gave more ground. British & Commonwealth, which formed another penny while Macdonald Martin jumped another 20p making a gain of 50p on the day for the distiller.

Dowty were a firm spot at 146p but Norwest were clipped back a few pence as profits were taken. Glaxo were subdued and little changed but the stores sector stayed a particularly dull spot.

Equity turnover on November 16 was £64.93m (13,424 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were Beecham, Shell, BAT Ind, GEC, ICI, BP partly paid, De La Rue, Gus "A", Furness Withy, BAT Ind, Hay's Wharf, Stocklake, Unilever, Tomatin, Leisure & General, Glenlivet, Amos Hinton and OIL Exploration.

Leisure & General chief frowns on Ladbroke's £6.2m offer

By Victor Felshead

Market speculation that a bid was on the way for Liverpool-based Leisure and General Holdings was answered yesterday. Ladbroke Group made a £6.18m offer. L & G's shares were already at 197p-77 "high" of 45p before the news and they finished the day a further 20p up at 65p.

The terms are 60p cash for each ordinary share, which equals 90p before the recent transfer of scrip issue. But the offer met with an immediate rebuff from L & G's John Chapple, chairman, said that it had come out of the blue.

The board had only been told of the terms and it had not yet received the bid offer. Mr Chapple said he found the price "highly unattractive".

The board also regretted that Ladbroke should have announced a bid without prior consultation with L & G.

It is consulting its advisers, the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation, which also holds about 20 per cent of L & G's equity. Meanwhile, shareholders are strongly recommended to take no action until they hear from the board.



My Cyril Stein, chairman of Ladbroke.

It seems quite possible that Ladbroke's offer will be resisted. L & G's board and the directors' families hold about 27 per cent of the ordinary capital, so any offer which does not receive their approval seems doomed. The other big shareholder is First Castle Securities, which has about 14.5 per cent.

But Mr Cyril Stein, the Ladbroke chairman, appears fairly confident. He said: "I regard this as a generous price. It is almost double the level ruling when their accounts were published on October 5. For a week after that their shares stood at the equivalent of 34p."

He added that he was looking forward to meeting L & G's chairman and that his board had good hopes that the offer would be accepted.

L & G's activities cover hotels, leisure holiday centres and catering establishments through the Mercury Motor Inns, the Mercury Leisure Holiday Centres and Astley's; it also covers licensed betting offices through racing and his FI and audio retailing through the Hardman Radio Shops.

In the year to April 30, its pre-tax profits reached a record £25,000 on a turnover of £24.2m.

Ladbroke, whose shares shipped by 2p to 187p yesterday, takes in betting, casinos and property. It also covers hotels, holidays, entertainments and racecourse management. Pre-tax profits in 1976 were £15.32m on a turnover £39.13m.

Lyons sells yet another hotel

J. Lyons has agreed in principle for Novotel Nederland to buy the Alpha Hotel in Amsterdam.

The terms will provide for Novotel to buy the shares of Strand Hotels Nederland and Alpha, to take over the mortgages on the hotel, and make a payment not exceeding £18.5m. This will depend on the extent to which Novotel assumes responsibility for other liabilities.

The Alpha was virtually the last of Lyons's major hotels following the sale of the rest of the group's United Kingdom hotels to Trust House Forte earlier this year, and the more recent sale of the Tower Hotel to EMI.

The sale of the Amsterdam hotel leaves Lyons with the 160 bedroom Commodore Hotel in Paris and a number of country houses in the United Kingdom.

Town Centre back on the prowl

Since the property market collapse the board of Town Centre Securities has been bidding its time and no development work has been started. Now, however, the board feels that the outlook is brighter and is once again looking at new projects and investment properties.

Mr Arnold Ziff, the chairman, says that the time is now right for the purchase of investment or reversionary properties. At present the letting market is more buoyant, particularly for quality properties.

Hoare Govett's new unit trust service

Stockbroker Hoare Govett announces a new discretionary service for unit trust investors. It is designed to give them simi-

lar professional management to that available to private shareholders from their stockbrokers.

Hoare Govett does not have any unit trusts under management itself. The new service will involve deciding on what the client wants out of unit trusts—whether income, capital growth or both, and managing a portfolio of units on that basis.

Charges are an administration fee of 3 per cent a year, with a minimum of £15 plus value added tax. Unit sales will incur normal stockbroker commission charges.

Better year under way at Alida

The Alida Packaging Group is continuing to develop new products and penetrate new markets. These moves as well as an expected increase in consumer spending, cause the directors to believe that the group will do better in 1978.

Over the first six months about £350,000 has been spent on new plant.

The group continues to seek ways of broadening its base of operations, and various opportunities are being investigated.

Bid for Norwest but at 72p a share

Dunham Mount Holdings, a private company, has bought 2.14m ordinary shares in Norwest Holst. This is about 2

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Careers in Management

Training in the middle

As a species the "middle manager" in British industry and commerce is among the most difficult to define. It is largely dependent on the degree of enlightenment shown by his employers whether he plays a genuinely effective management role or becomes the buffer between the shopfloor and the boardroom.

Fortunately, the majority of British employers are now enlightened enough to realize that to allow any link between them and their workers to develop into one in which a degree of distrust and inefficiency appears is both unproductive and a gross misuse of personnel.

The middle manager has, therefore, developed into one of the most vital elements in industry and one to which an increasingly sophisticated selection and training process is being applied.

Formal qualifications are now more important, but this is still the area of management where a high degree of practical skill and experience of production and working techniques are necessary. Consequently the skilled shopfloor worker with in-job management training is still regarded by many in the recruitment field as the ideal middle manager.

The most popular post-graduate qualification in Britain, and the one with which the aspirant to middle management status should be armed, is the Diploma in Management Studies (DMS). Courses leading to the DMS are the main activity in the management education departments of over 50 centres of further and higher education throughout Britain and since the diploma was introduced in 1961, over 10,000 students gained it.

The DMS is now the mainstay of management education, being based on the

programme originally drawn up by the British Institute of Management when it was an examining body. The courses are designed to provide students with a basic knowledge of commerce and industry; to raise their general level of understanding of management processes; and to bring them up to date with the tools and techniques of successful management.

The most attractive feature of the DMS course is its flexibility. Studies can be on a full-time, sandwich, block-release or part-time basis. It can be taken either as a post-graduate or a post-experience course, and is, therefore, equally relevant to a young graduate starting a career in management or to an older person desiring to be brought up to date with the tools and techniques of successful management.

Another attractive aspect of the DMS course, and one which makes it particularly applicable to the middle management sector, is that although correctly regarded as a post-graduate course, roughly half of the people who have so far qualified for a DMS are not graduates.

Many are holders of professional qualifications, but a significant number have no formal higher educational qualifications.

Other highly respected qualifications for managers are those awarded by the Institution of Works Managers. The title "works manager" is slightly misleading as the Institute's membership comes from a wide range of industry and commerce.

Based in Luton, the Institute offers qualifications at three levels: the Certificate in Industrial Management, the Diploma in Industrial Management and an Advanced Diploma in Industrial Management. Candidates can take the examinations in sequence or, depending on previous relevant qualifications, can take the Advanced Diploma first.

Broadening and updating courses are both full and part-time, some being only one-day courses, while others last several months on a full-time basis. The cost of such courses varies enormously. In 1976 these ranged from £6 a day non-residential to up to £60 a day residential, depending on the type of course and whether it was being run by a college or polytechnic or by one of the privately run business schools.

David Young

THE POLICE GRADUATE ENTRY SCHEME

The police have an increasing need for highly qualified men and women. There are two ways of entering — by normal application at any time of the year or through a special entry scheme. What follows gives you a basic outline of how the special entry scheme works and an opportunity to acquire more detailed information.

What are the advantages of the special entry scheme?

Under the special entry scheme, you can offer yourself, even before joining the police, for selection for the Special Course at the Police College, Bramshill. This course is for officers considered to have the potential for accelerated promotion to the rank of inspector and beyond.

Who can apply?

Any graduate or undergraduate in the final year of a full time degree course up to the age of 30 may apply. Any University or CNA degree is acceptable.

Closing dates for 1978 interviews for the special entry scheme are: 30th January for all forces except Metropolitan Police; 9th January for the Metropolitan Police.

Enquiries about ordinary entry for graduates can be made at any time.

Can a police career make full use of a university education?

The intellectual challenges of police work are considerable. Your ability and

potential will be used to the full in combating the increasingly complex problems which today's society poses for the police. You will find the work demanding, satisfying and rewarding. A real challenge.

Like to find out more?

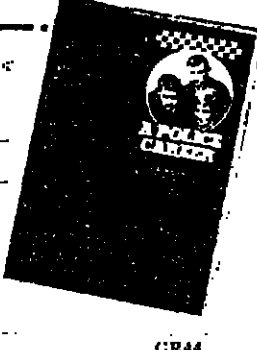
Police starting pay is £2,400 p.a. (£2,519 in London). Inspectors start at £3,900 (£4,500 in London) a year basic salary. This is plus a supplement of 5% of total earnings subject to a maximum of £4 per week. Agreement has been reached on a further increase of 10% from 1st September, 1977. The top of the all police officers' pay scale is £10,000 p.a. or rent allowance, the current maximum of which ranges from £408 to £1,177 (half for single officers) a year depending on area. For more information, please send off the coupon to: Suplt. David Young, Room 356, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1W 9AT or ask for the Graduate Liaison Officer at the Headquarters of the Police Force of your choice.

Please send me your new booklet and literature on the opportunities for graduates in the police service.

Name (Mr./Mrs./Miss) _____

Address _____

Degree/Course _____



GB44

THE FEDERATION OF CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS

The Federation, the employers' organisation which represents civil engineering contractors in dealing with Government departments, trade unions and other organisations, is seeking three specialists to join its team of officials in London, as follows:—

1. ECONOMIST/STATISTICIAN

To report to the Director, Economic Affairs on economic trends affecting the industry. Work will include the preparation and presentation of information on construction and allied affairs. Knowledge of statistical sources, ability to interpret figures and present the results verbally and in written reports essential. Experience in committee work desirable. This post could extend into Federation activities outside general economic affairs in providing a service to members. Ability to mix at all levels is therefore essential.

2. INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

This appointment is as assistant to the Director, Industrial Relations Affairs, who is also Employers' Secretary of the Civil Engineering Construction Conciliation Board. The work includes advising members on questions arising from industrial law and the national agreement on wages and conditions, arranging meetings of the industry's conciliation machinery and drafting reports to Congress and other papers. Some involvement in industrial relations training may arise. Age 24-30.

3. PUBLIC RELATIONS/EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

An Assistant to the Director of External Affairs to be primarily concerned with promoting the image of the industry, the contribution which free enterprise construction makes to the economy and social well-being of the nation. An interest in current affairs and a proven, well-developed ability to express ideas in a lively and original manner direct and through the media. Probable age 30-35.

The appointments require well-developed, written and spoken communication skills. The ability to analyse information and draw clear and concise reports and other papers is essential, as is the application needed to complete tasks on time, sometimes under pressure. Salaries offered will be in the range £5,000 to £8,000, depending on qualifications, age and experience. Candidates should be educated to degree level or equivalent. Directly related experience and/or knowledge of the construction industry is desirable.

Write giving details of age, education, qualifications and experience to:—

The General Secretary, The Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, Romney House, Tufnell Street, London NW1P 3DU.

THE BRITISH LIBRARY Automated Information Service

These London posts are in small teams involved in the following areas:

Marketing

concerns promotional activity, customer liaison and enquiries. Senior Research Assistant and Research Assistant appointments.

User Education and Training

concerns user training and documentation. Research Assistant appointment.

Market Research and Planning

concerns the collection and analysis of data, the planning of new services including studies of library requirements and market research activity in support of marketing staff. Senior Research Assistant and Research Assistant appointments.

Candidates should normally have a degree, or a qualification in Libraryship or Information Science, or specially relevant experience. Experience of automated library or information services including MARC or MEDLARS and on-line services advantageous.

Salary: SRA (minimum age 28) starting salary between £5,170 and £5,765. RA I £4,230-£5,440 or RA II £3,070-£4,510: level of appointment and starting salary according to age, qualifications and experience. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For full details and an application form (to be returned by 9 December, 1977) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote G/9565.



GROUP ACCOUNTANT/ CASH CONTROL

International investment and trading group requires to work in its new small U.K. management services office a Group Accountant with Company Secretary experience (a chartered secretary with group accountant experience would be considered). The task involves preparation, installation and operation of an initially small scale international and flexible group accounting cash control and management information system. Some experience of property management an advantage. Park Lane location. Preferred age 35/50. Salary negotiable between £5,000/£6,000. Apply to Mr. A. Baldwin. Telephone 499 9986.

Accountant/Bookkeeper, WC2

Friendly firm of Architects in pleasant ancient, require capable accountant/bookkeeper with experience of balance sheet, knowledge of P.A.Y.E., V.A.T. and computer input forecasting. The person should be flexible and a good administrator. Age group approximately 25-35. Salary £5,000 negotiable. PHONE 836 4561

SOLICITOR

As an assistant legal adviser to a petrochemical company, dealing with all legal matters relating to oil and gas exploration. Based London, S.W.1. Salary c. £5,500 p.a. with excellent prospects. Contact Gary Turner, S & W Services, 26a High St, Hounslow, Middx. 01-872 7353. (Recruitment Co.)

CAREER IN FLEET STREET

YOUNG SALESPERSON required to join the London Advertisement Dept. of News Group Newspapers, publishers of The Sun and News of the World, Britain's best read Daily and Sunday newspapers. Excellent opportunities exist for enthusiastic young men and women, living in the London area, to become salesmen selling to Advertising Agencies and major companies. Applicants should be able to demonstrate a personal head to succeed, possessing their own abilities within a satisfying environment. If you have had some previous selling experience and think you have the talent to develop into a salesperson earning high remuneration with a very successful company, call or write to: Michael Moore, Advertisement Manager, NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LTD., 50 Boulevard Street, London E.C.4. Telephone 363 3030 ext. 581, 586.

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

ASSISTANT FINANCE OFFICER

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons for the post of Assistant Finance Officer in the Finance Office, Salary on scale £5,250-£6,538 p.a. under review.

Further particulars of the post may be obtained from the University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL or by writing to the Finance Office, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HOTEL

Conference manager/ops, 25-30, hotel trained in conference/entertaining work, with a proven experience in a service industry with direct customer contact, sought by leading hotel group. Training courses, seminars and working conferences in conjunction with first-class accommodation, excellent facilities. Realistic prospects of advancement. Write to: Recruitment, 837/1082.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY BOOKSHOP MANAGER DESIGNATE

Applications are invited from men or women for this appointment, which subject to a satisfactory probation, will lead to appointment as Manager when the present holder of this post retires in March 1978.

Applicants should be in the 35 to 45 age group, physically fit, with knowledge of the book trade, considerable experience in the field of shop management and staff control and in dealing with customers of many different nationalities.

The salary of the Manager is linked to the Higher Executive Officer scale of the Civil Service, beginning at a point commensurate with age and experience. The salary of the Manager Designate will be negotiable but not less than £4,000.

For full details and application form please write enclosing stamped addressed envelope to the Receiver General, Room 4, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, London SW1P 3PA.

COMPANY FORMATION AND ADMINISTRATION

We need a person with a suitable qualification or relevant experience to undertake Company Secretarial work for clients. The job will initially be concerned with statutory books and returns, but will later include formations, liquidations and other work. Age is immaterial but the prospects for a younger person may be excellent. Expected salary range £4,000-£5,000 p.a. but could be higher for exceptional candidate. Apply to: Harold Watts, Denton Hall and Burgin, 3 Gray's Inn Place, London WC1R 5EA. Tel. 01-242 1212

Payroll Officer

£4,200 per annum. The Spastics Society, one of the largest voluntary organisations in the U.K., requires a Payroll Officer to supervise 750/800 central payroll (mainly monthlies), with two staff.

It is planned to computerise the payroll in 1978 and some experience in payroll computerisation is essential. Experience of a mechanised payroll (NCR 33 used) will be a definite advantage as will some pensions administration experience.

Phone or write with details of career and experience to date to: Anthony O'Flaherty, Chief Personnel Officer, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Tel: 01-636 5020.

OXFORD DIOCESAN PARSONAGES BOARD MAINTENANCE SURVEYOR

Chartered Surveyor (preferably Building Sub-division) with at least 10 years experience since qualification, required to take responsibility for repairs and minor improvements to the Board's 400 parsonage houses throughout the counties of Oxford, Berks, and Bucks. Salary within scale £5,422-£6,422 (annual review).

Non-contributory pension scheme. Apply to: Secretary, Oxford Diocesan Parsonages Board, Church House, North Hinksey, Oxford, giving names of 2 referees by Wednesday, 30th November, 1977.

We need teachers who can remain calm under fire as well as in the classroom.

It's a tall order, we know.

But then, we're not merely offering you a change of schools.

In the Army, you'll teach young recruits and experienced soldiers who wish to qualify as tradesmen.

You'll coach Officers who have to pass examinations for promotion and for entry to the Staff College.

You may well teach abroad, perhaps with British troops, or Gurkhas or locally enlisted soldiers in Hong Kong.

This makes you as important as any of our other Officers.

You'll have the same status, the same opportunities for promotion, the same levels of pay.

We think it only fair, therefore, that you should prove yourself their equal as an Officer.

Six months at Sandhurst will give you the chance.

Although it won't be your main concern, you'll have to prove that you can lead men and, if it comes to the crunch, carry out operational duties.

After Sandhurst and a spell at the RAEC's own training centre, you'll take up your first teaching post.

Your starting salary, depending on your qualifications, will be between £3,157 and £4,641, back dated to the day you joined.

If you decide to leave after three years commissioned service, you'll get a tax-free gratuity of £1,545.

As to your qualifications, the main thing is that you should be a graduate or at least a qualified teacher.

Incidentally, throughout your period of service, you'll be given every opportunity to improve your own professional qualifications, possibly up to post-graduate level.

Assuming you're fit and under 29, you can take a tentative step in our direction by spending three days at our headquarters or a day at any Army Education Centre. Either way, you'll be under no obligation.

Entry normally takes place in January and July and you are advised to apply at least six months in advance. For further details write to: Captain G. C. Taylor, M.A., RAEC, Ministry of Defence (A Ed 1), Dept D17, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, SW6 1TR.

Army Officer

Your Accounting Skills and Housing Finance

In your 20s with sound financial experience and enthusiasm for projects providing housing for those most in need? You could soon be helping the Housing Corporation finance housing associations which are providing 30,000 new and improved homes annually.

We need a Financial Assistant in our London Regional Office who will principally be concerned with monitoring the financial affairs of housing associations and evaluating their performance.

Excellent conditions include a superannuation scheme, transferable within the public sector. Salary £3,855-£4,663 (negotiable).

If you are part way through professional studies or have a relevant degree/diploma, write with details of yourself and your career to:

Graham Howard, Management Services Division, The Housing Corporation, Maple House, 149 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0BN

The Housing Corporation

General Telephone

Area Representatives—London and South East, Midlands and North—£4,750-£5,500

We are looking for enthusiastic experienced salesmen for London and South East. You can display, character, tact and determination in difficult times.

They will be trained to sell our range of communications services including inter-telephone, post-exchange, public address, time control and live alarm systems.

Naturally applicants should be successful in their interview and be of interest to us, but a background in sales is not essential. The scope and nature of the work is truly interesting and offers the good opportunity for advancement.

Commission, overall commission should be around £4,750-£5,500 in the first year although much higher figures can be achieved with experience. Company car and expenses, 3 weeks' paid holiday, London and South East posts would be based in London, other areas in Birmingham.

Please telephone or write quickly to: D H WARD, Sales Manager, General Telephone Systems Ltd, 44/50, Osnaburgh St. NW1 3NL Tel: 01-388 7241

THE CONTRACTORS' PLANT ASSOCIATION Executive Appointment

The Association represents the construction plant hire industry and wishes to make a further addition to its executive staff, to help strengthen and extend its existing work in the following three areas:

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: TRAINING: HEALTH & SAFETY

Knowledge of industrial relations in some sector of the construction industries is desirable, with the ability to extend scope of interest across these three areas generally. Opportunity for an intelligent and experienced person of mature personality, able to write and speak lucidly and handle organising, committee and occasional negotiation aspects.

Salary according to experience, abilities and qualifications, with regular reviews. Good working conditions and four weeks annual leave. Preferred age range about 30 to 45. Future prospects in a developing organisation.

Write, in confidence, for further details and brief form of application to: R. C. Sansom, B.Sc.(Eng.), FICE, Director, The Contractors' Plant Association, 28 Eccleston Street, London SW1W 9PY.

£6,000 plus

APPOINTMENTS

appear on

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FOCUS ON

OMAN

a Special Report

*Oil revenues... farming... minerals
irrigation... education... sport*

Chequered progress of a Rip Van Winkle

by Christopher Walker

Seven years ago Oman was a country shrouded in a deceptive mystique whose estimated one million inhabitants were forbidden to study, play music, smoke, wear sunglasses or even move in and out of their walled capital of Muscat after dark.

Deliberately kept in ignorance about life in the outside world, East or West, they were ruled by an eccentric, penny-pinching and reclusive Sultan whose only contact with all but a handful of sycophantic courtiers was made by radio telephone.

On July 23, 1970 the country was suddenly transformed when the present ruler, Sultan Qaboos bin Said (the fourteenth in the dynasty), deposed his reactionary father and persuaded him to leave for London, to live out the remaining two years of his life in the Dorchester hotel.

The ensuing period in the history of Oman has been one of remarkable, if sometimes chequered, progress, for the year of 77/0m risks bedevilled until two years ago by a vicious and debilitating war against Marxist guerrillas fighting in the semi-desert southern region of Dhofar.

Inevitably the necessity of moving almost overnight from medieval to modern times brought difficulties, including those of financial management, but many have been overcome.

Those that remain depend to a large extent on the unanswered question of how long the limited reserves of crude oil can continue to finance economic and social progress. So far despite the progress, no sign of internal political dissent is permitted against a system of government which makes little allowance for popular participation.

Although the so-called secret war against the Cuban-trained guerrillas of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman (PFLO) was officially declared won in December, 1975, the fear of communist aggression combined with a firm belief in the domino theory continues to colour the Sultan's thinking.

Estimates for the 1977 budget show that although defence spending has dropped slightly from the war years, it still accounts for almost 40 per cent of the total planned expenditure for the year of 77/0m risks. Senior government advisers expect the level to be maintained in the immediate future.

Much of the money has been allocated to an advanced ground-to-air missile system and Anglo-French Jaguar strike aircraft, the fifth of which was delivered in September. Dominating the southern gateway to the Gulf, Oman is conscious of the strategic importance of the narrow Strait of Hormuz and also of the war between Ethiopia and Somalia, which it is feared could increase Russian influence in the Red Sea. Close military links were forged with Iran during the secret war. The final defeat of the PFLO won the Sultan considerable prestige in the Arab world.

In the south of the country considerable energy and expense has been devoted to bolstering resistance to any resurgence of PFLO activity. The policy has centred on a heart-and-minds campaign, backed by a build-up in the Loyal Forces, a tribal home guard of 3,100 men paid to police the hills and rout out the 40 or so rebels believed still to be active inside Oman.

Hopes earlier in the year that relations with the neighbouring People's Democratic Republic of Yemen might improve were dashed last month in a bitter series of exchanges between representatives of the two ideologically opposed



Edith Dorsey Raff seek schooling abroad.

*communications... conservation...
banking and finance... customs*

governments at the United Nations.

Now an established member of both the United Nations and the Arab League, although not of Opec, Oman has devoted considerable attention to balancing its desire to play an international role with the acknowledged gaps in its embryonic economy.

Most of them were the legacy of the last Sultan, and have resulted in capital expenditure on a scale which has been maintained only by soft loans and grants from friendly Arab neighbours, notably Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi.

In 1970, Oman had only three schools, teaching a total of 909 pupils, no international airport, no seaport, one hotel, and five kilometres of paved road for its 800 car owners.

Today cars and taxis number 22,000, international airports have been built in the north and south of the country, two modern ports are in operation, sufficient hotel rooms exist for visiting businessmen and the number of children attending school this year will top 70,000.

As yet only three Omani schools have reached secondary level, and there are no plans for a university, but the access to education (largely supplied by expatriate teachers from Egypt and Jordan) exceeds the expectations of most of the population.

It is still common to encounter Omanis who have returned from voluntary exile after escaping the old regime by making the hazardous journey by dhow to now the focus for oil exploration teams, its successful integration with the rest of the country will be symbolically demonstrated as the National Day celebrations take place there for the first time. The strong diplomatic presence will be an accurate reflection of the fund of good will held for Oman throughout the Western world.

The present rate of production of 335,000 barrels a day is already down on the peak achieved in 1976, and expatriate oilmen emphasize the rising costs caused by the need to fly in teams of outside experts to cope with extraction difficulties. They also say that the geological structure of the country makes the likelihood of big new finds negligible.

For its part, the Omani Government explains that allowance for a gradual decline has been made in the five-year plan published last year, and points to strenuous efforts being made to diversify the economy and build up other income-generating industries, including copper, gas, fisheries and agriculture. Heartened by a new drilling project in Dhofar which will be producing an extra 30,000 barrels a day by 1980, senior government officials argue that the oil company executives are unduly pessimistic.

In many ways it is the remote and picturesque southern region of Dhofar which holds the key to Oman's future. Rich in untapped tourist potential, newly liberated from the stranglehold of extreme left-wing guerrilla forces and now the focus for oil exploration teams, its successful integration with the rest of the country will be symbolically demonstrated as the National Day celebrations take place there for the first time. The strong diplomatic presence will be an accurate reflection of the fund of good will held for Oman throughout the Western world.

One of the oldest independent Arab states, Oman has a rich history and a cultural tradition which belies its recent isolation, poverty and backwardness. Its links with Britain stretch back to 1788, and even today its 20,000-strong army, navy and air force rely significantly on the 625 present and former members of the British services.

Some 200 of those officers and NCOs are on loan, and the rest are ex-members now employed on contract for the Omani Government. Their presence is a constant source of irritation to Oman's enemies, and the daily barrage of hostile propaganda from Radio Aden scathingly refers to them as "mercenaries" and "agents".

In addition, an estimated 5,000 British expatriates live and work in Oman, many enjoying tax-free salaries more than double those they could expect at home. Although the country has a rigidly conservative Islamic tradition, life for foreign workers is considerably more relaxed than its richer northern neighbours. Drink is freely available in hotel bars and expatriate women are able to wear western style clothes without trouble.

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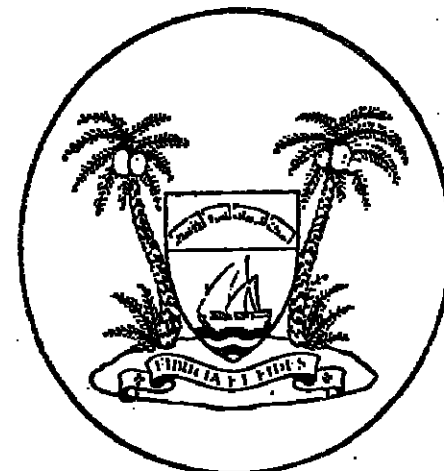
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FOCUS ON

THE ECONOMY, FOREIGN RELATIONS AND FINANCE

Discipline brings better reputation

by John Whelan

Control is a word often used in Oman in connexion with the economy. Today, in other Gulf states this would be called stagnation or recession. By contrast the Omanis appear to have learnt the lessons of a sharp financial crisis in 1974 when the economy became overheated. The control which is helping to make Oman a good word again in banking circles is expressed in a five-year development plan covering government expenditure till 1980. The difference between this plan and the development plans of certain other Gulf states is that government ministries are cutting their spending to fit the targets defined in the plan. Some of the credit for this belongs to the Deputy Chairman of the seven-man Development Council, Qais Abdul Munim Al-Zawawi, who has been largely responsible for translating the Sultan's call for restraint into practical reality.

The effect of the new discipline on the expansion of credit has been apparent. Credit rose from 6.5m rials (£22.5m) in 1972 to 65m rials (£225m) in 1974. Credit has continued to accelerate but the upward trend has been less pronounced. There was a rise from 123m rials (£42.5m) at the end of 1976 to 153m rials (£52.8m) in August 1977. Government borrowings actually declined from 89m rials (£30.75m) at the end of last year to 54.7m rials (£18.9m) in August. Imports grew marginally in 1976 over the previous year from 361.4m rials (£124.4m) to 380.5m rials (£131.5m). There is every sign that this trend will continue, together with the wider slow down of trade in the oil-rich Gulf. Economic activity is reflected in the fall in cement imports, which were about 7 per cent down in 1976 compared with 1975.

This year's working budget deficit is estimated conservatively at 56m rials (£19.35m) which is an improvement on the 1976 operational deficit of 68.5m rials (£23.6m). The snag is that once again repayment of loans and interest will add another 30m rials (£10.35m) to the deficit, bringing this over the 100m rials (£34.5m) mark. The hope must be that renewed oil exploration will be successful. A concession agreement was signed in October covering a 64,000 sq km area in the Dhofar province. British Petroleum, AGIP of Italy and Deutsche

Erdoel - Versorgungsgesellschaft of West Germany will spend £21.7m seeking oil. The five-year plan actually takes account of dwindling revenues from oil, which is a sign that the Omanis are not banking on oil in the sky. Oil produced 454.7m rials (£157.15m) in 1976 but this is expected to fall to 425m rials (£146m) by 1980. From the inception of the plan Zawawi and the Sultan have seen as one answer soft loans from Arab states, together with correct grants and a strictly limited amount of direct borrowing. Loans and grants are envisaged as being a declining form of deficit bridging during the five-year plan, though two key projects are receiving foreign aid. The Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development is helping to finance a £17.22m 331km gas pipeline linking the natural gas fields with Ghubra on the coast. The pipeline will generate power for important secondary industries. More important still was the Saudi grant of £55.55m towards a copper mining project at Sohar. The Saudis have also provided £52.78m for road construction and building schemes in the Dhofar province. Zawawi is also committed to the encouragement of joint ventures, though this is restrained by the Government's concern to keep the Omani economy in the hands of Omanis. In a state which has successfully emerged from a costly counter-insurgency operation the lesson about allowing too much foreign control is all too clear. The investment law has been amended by a government decree requiring 150,000 rials (£51,840) minimum capital for local companies established with foreign participation. The aim of this is to encourage inflow of capital and keep smaller enterprises in Omani hands.

Foreign companies have also been restricted from building homes for their own employees to stimulate rentals. By the end of 1976 94.5 per cent of all companies in Oman were entirely Omani owned, though the four biggest in terms of paid-up capital were still entirely foreign owned. Much turns on the ability of the Government to curb spending. National security, though envisaged as a declining element in the budget, is still expected to total 97m rials (£33.58m) during the five-year plan. It is the largest single item of spending though it does reflect an element of civil expenditure, largely on housing for members of the defence forces and their families.

The author is on the staff of the Middle East Economic Digest. But Saudi-Iranian cooperation in OPEC helped to overcome that strain and soon the Saudi leadership began to apply some of its massive new oil revenues to the task of buying off the PDRY's support of the Dhofar rebels with promises of much-needed financial aid to Aden. When the war ended, therefore, Oman was already starting to move out of its old isolation. Now, as the focus of internal attention shifts from Dhofar to more general defence problems and long-term civil development throughout the country, the process is accelerating. First to be affected is the old alliance with Britain which is being slowly diluted. Most of the impetus for this change actually comes from the British Government, anxious to reduce one of its last significant military commitments outside Europe. With Iran relations are less deeply established; and since the Shah withdrew the last of his 3,000 soldiers in March they have settled down into what might be called a state of grateful cordiality. With the exception of the PDRY, on the other hand, Oman's relations with its Arab neighbours are growing closer as its dependence on non-Arab partners diminishes.

Kuwait, which remained severely aloof from Oman until the Dhofar war was over, has provided civil aid in Dhofar and placed \$25m on deposit at the Oman central bank. Iraq, for long one of the PDY's supporters, has exchanged ambassadors, and Shaikh Zaid, President of the United Arab Emirates, has paid a state visit to Oman and contributed financial aid. Far more important are the growing links with the Saudis. Grants from Riyadh to Oman for the development of the PFLO's supporters, has been supplied for establishing a copper smelter in northern Oman. In addition, the Saudis are believed to have given about £140m to buy a new air defence system from Britain. In exchange there is fresh speculation that the Saudis may now want to build a new oil pipeline from their southern oilfields to a terminal on Oman's Indian Ocean coastline. When the British pulled out of Masirah in the spring there were instant rumours circulated especially from Aden, Moscow and other left-wing capitals - that the Americans were about to move in, to use the airfield as a back-up base for Diego Garcia in their surveillance of the Indian Ocean. This would presumably have balanced the Soviet position in Aden. But the Sultan strenuously denies any such prospect, while admitting that he will certainly allow friendly powers to use Masirah occasionally if they so request.

Banking in Oman has counterpoised the country's economic and political development. When the present ruler, Sultan Qaboos, overthrew his father in 1970, Oman had only three banks: the ubiquitous British Bank of the Middle East, which had opened in 1948, the Eastern Bank (now Chartered), and the Ottoman Bank (now Grindlays). The Eastern and Ottoman banks had opened in 1968 and 1969 respectively. Today Oman has 19 banks with another licensed and likely to open this year. Five of the operating banks are locally incorporated (as is the licensee-holder), and between them control 95 out of 100 per cent. The rate slowed in the next two years, and then actually declined at the beginning of this year, to recover in the second quarter. Now, however, there are signs of an economic slowdown. The banks' actual assets declined slightly from 275m rials (\$796m) in December, 1976, to 257m rials (\$745m) in March, 1977. The official view is that the slowdown is just a more realistic rate after the breakneck expansion of the early 1970s. But to ensure

that adequate finance is forthcoming, two new development banks have been started, the Oman Development Bank, in which the Government is subscribing 40 per cent of the 10m rials (\$29m) capital, and the Omani Housing Bank, capitalized at the same amount, with a 10 per cent share going to the British Bank of the Middle East. Whatever happens to the economy over the next few years, it is unlikely that last year's record figures of money supply, up 44 per cent, and credit reaching its legal limit of 85 per cent of deposits, will be repeated. But the banks' business is securely founded. From the international banker's point of view, however, Oman cannot be as attractive as Bahrain or the United Arab Emirates. The absence from Oman of most of the top names which proliferate in other Gulf countries indicates Oman's lack of appeal. It will probably be a long time before the image is more exciting. In the meantime, it could prove a testing ground for the development of Arab banks.

The author is on the staff of the Middle East Economic Digest.

Widening the horizons

by David Holden

Like many other aspects of Oman's life, the foreign policy of the sultanate was dominated until recently by reaction to the Marxist rebellion in Dhofar. As long as the insurrection there remained a considerable threat to the Sultan's rule the only foreign relations that really mattered to him were those with other powers that were prepared to help in its suppression. But now that the war is over a subtler approach to the world has been adopted. The main evidence of this is a slow but significant widening of Oman's regional horizons, especially in the Arab world. In modern times until 1970, when Sultan Qaboos came to power, Oman had no effective relations with any foreign power except Britain. For nearly two centuries it had been under de facto British protection, turning its back upon the Arab world as it pursued its seaborne trade with India and East Africa.

Under the present Sultan's father this British connexion was deliberately strengthened to the exclusion of all else as he strove to preserve the country from the impact of modern nationalism. As a result, the Dhofar war found the country totally dependent on British military and civilian aid and Sultan Qaboos was hamstrung after depositing his father in a palace coup, by the widespread suspicion of fellow-Arabs that he, too, was no more than a British stooge. Throughout the Dhofar war, Arab reluctance to be associated with British military action proved inhibiting even when it was clearly established that the rebellion had fallen under Marxist control through the leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman (PFLO), directed and assisted by the Government of the PDY (South Yemen), with Russian, East German and Cuban assistance. Of all the Arab leaders only King Hussein of Jordan came forward with military aid. Otherwise it was left to the Shah of Iran to seize on the potential threat from the PFLO to his own "jaguar vein" - the tanker route through the Strait of Hormuz to send his troops to aid the Sultan and the Sultan's forces in 1974. Ironically, the very success of that intervention, leading directly to the end of the war 18 months ago, threatened temporarily to deepen Oman's isolation from the Arab world by rousing new suspicions of Iranian imperialism - especially in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. But Saudi-Iranian cooperation in OPEC helped to over-

Oil and politics behind banks' growth

by Michael Prest

The economic, military, and social strategy had as a major aim the modernization of the country's hinterland. Thus since November, 1975 banks have been asked to start two interior branches for each additional branch after their first three have opened in Muscat. Four are allowed if one is in Salalah. The result is that by the end of September this year 16 inland towns had at least one bank. While not denying that these rules were part of the Government's wider strategy, the Central Bank says it was not forced to accept anything with which it disagreed. But the real impetus was economic. Between 1973 and 1974 money supply rose by 100 per cent. The rate slowed in the next two years, and then actually declined at the beginning of this year, to recover in the second quarter. Now, however, there are signs of an economic slowdown. The banks' actual assets declined slightly from 275m rials (\$796m) in December, 1976, to 257m rials (\$745m) in March, 1977. The official view is that the slowdown is just a more realistic rate after the breakneck expansion of the early 1970s. But to ensure

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The author is on the staff of the Middle East Economic Digest.

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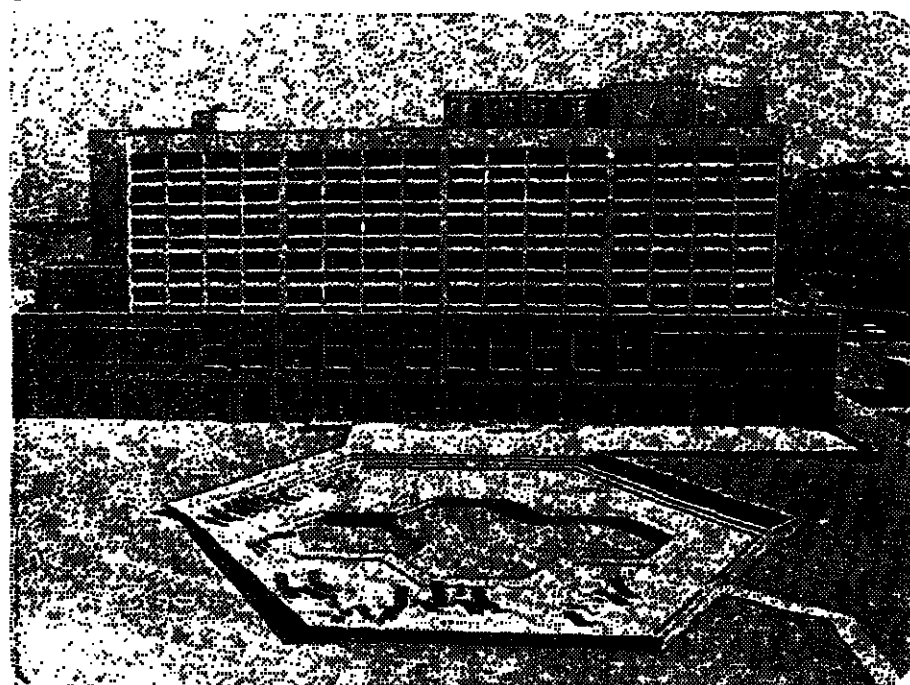
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FOCUS ON

OIL AND DEFENCE

Riches underlie former battlefield

by Roger Vielvoye

Oman is now poised to bring into production three new oilfields in the southern part of the country close to the region where only recently government forces were engaged in a bitter struggle with insurgents. By Middle Eastern standards the fields, Marzani, Amal and Nasir, are small but for Oman their development is important.

Not only will they demonstrate the benefits of peace in the area, but will also provide a valuable new source of oil by the end of the decade when the established oilfields in the north-east part of the country begin to run dry.

Over the past few years the northern field has been working at maximum capacity to provide money for the war. Present production is about 335,000 barrels a day from nine fields south of the Saudi Arabian border. They are operated by Shell on behalf of Petroleum Development (Oman) in which the Government has a 60 per cent holding.

Shell has a 34 per cent interest and the other 6 per cent is held by the Government.

fighting started and this was not the main cause of the delay in development. Until oil prices began to soar after the 1973-74 Arab-Israeli war and the resulting oil supply crisis, it was not economically feasible to consider a production programme from such small fields.

Estimates of the production capability of the fields vary. Shell, which is undertaking the development plans on behalf of PDO, reckons that the reservoirs can produce the 30,000 barrels a day needed to warrant commercial exploitation.

Shell puts the development cost at between \$200m and \$250m and is still involved with talks with the Government over the terms under which the programme will be undertaken. A decision is expected before the end of the year.

The Government takes a slightly more optimistic view of the prospects. It is hoping that the fields will yield up to 50,000 barrels a day. Neither the Government nor Shell gives any credence to independent estimates that the reservoirs are capable of producing 200,000 barrels a day.

50,000-ton berthing at the proposed offshore loading facility.

There is also speculation that Oman and Saudi Arabia are close to reaching agreement on the route for another pipeline to link the Saudi oilfields at Shaybah to a terminal on the Indian Ocean coast.

A spate of loans from Saudi Arabia to Oman, particularly \$113m for improving basic surfaces in Dhofar, have increased speculation that agreement on the pipeline route is close. It is suggested that Saudi Arabia would lease a corridor of land through Oman for the line, but Oman would retain final rights over the land and would be responsible for security.

Exploration is also under way. The best prospect so far is offshore in the Gulf of Hormuz, where the Elf-Aquitaine group appears to have made a promising find close to the median line with Iranian waters. Gulf Oil has also taken a 40 per cent stake in an onshore block in the north-west held by Quintana Petroleum of Texas.

A consortium of British Petroleum, Agip and Deminor also has a 24,710 sq mile concession covering most of the Dhofar region not assigned to PDO. It plans to spend about \$39m on exploration drilling in an attempt to prove an extension of the Rub al Khali geological formation from Saudi Arabia.

War that ended with a whimper

by Henry Stanhope

Two years after winning the long war against rebels in the southern province of Dhofar, the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) are occupying the Omani front line in the battle to secure the peace.

On the face of it, this is not too difficult. The war ended with a whimper rather than a bang, reflecting the way in which the British-led SAF squeezed the rebel infrastructure in the Dhofar mountains until there was no breath left. One by one the remaining leaders of the communist-inspired insurgency have given themselves up, lured by the promise of an amnesty, £150 for surrendering their rifles and perhaps a place in the Firqat, the paramilitary home guard which now keeps the peace in the jebel.

Fears that the war might be prolonged or even escalated by the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY), which trained, encouraged and equipped the rebels, have not materialized. The PDRY has troubles of its own and is disinclined to become directly involved in the struggle. The SAF troops sit astride the old supply routes along which the rebels passed from the PDRY to Oman and back again, at Sarfait. To reopen these routes would require a major military operation, and the Yemenis are unable to mount one. Even the artillery fire, which continued for some time after the war, has now stopped.

In one sense, however, the problems for the SAF have only just begun. Or, if that is too strong, they have at least exchanged one set of problems for another.

In the first place the peace has to be maintained.

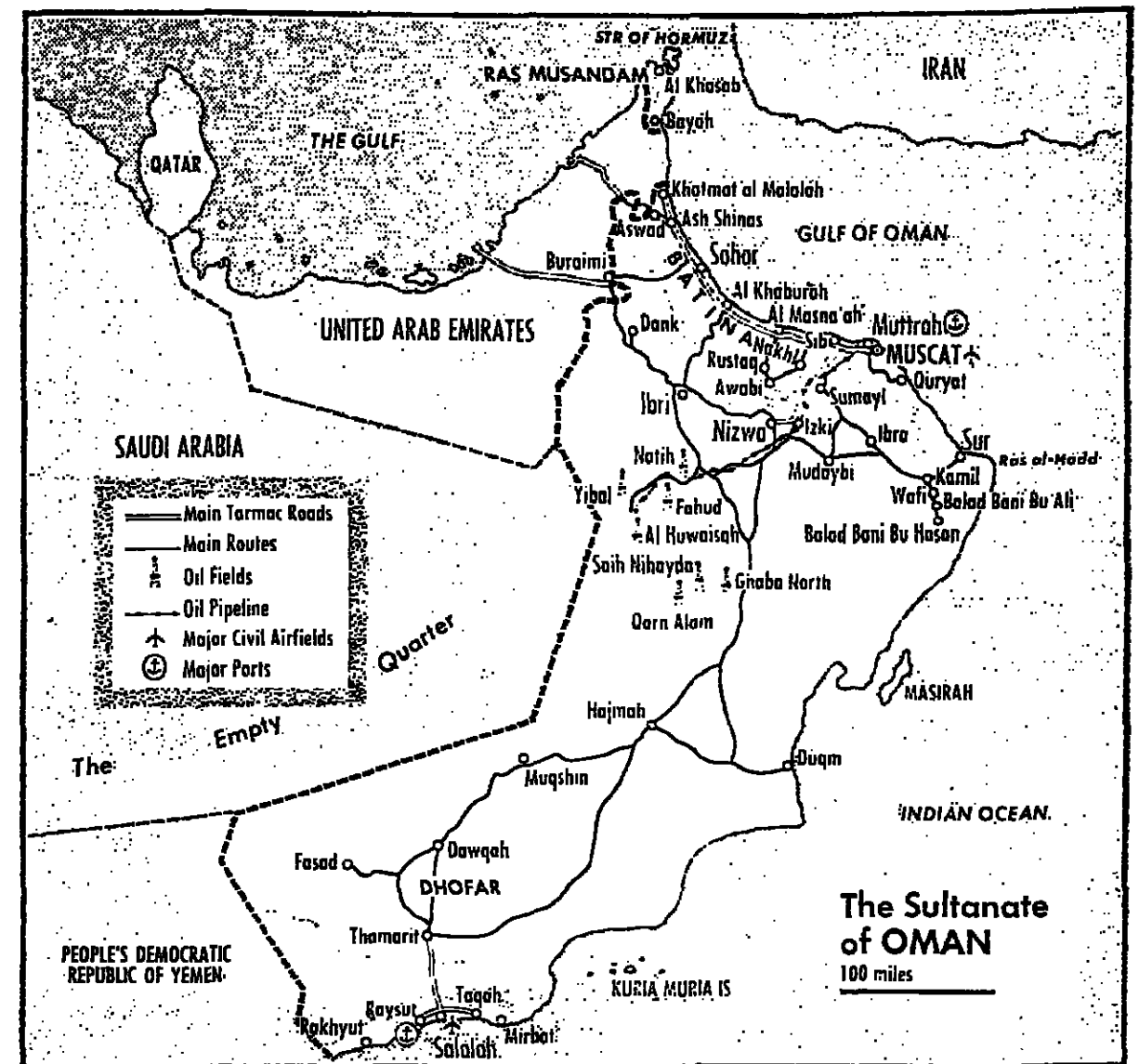
Although there is scarcely an external threat to the rule of Sultan Qaboos, there is always the underlying fear of internal disruption in a country so divided by both geography and tribal loyalties. More than half the 3,100-strong Firqat are former rebels from the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman (PFLO) whose loyalty to the Sultan depends more on material benefits than any surge of patriotic feeling. Seconded British officers who led the SAF throughout the war respected the Firqat's knowledge of the jebel, but otherwise regarded them with some misgivings.

Both in the jebel and in the open expanses of the Omani interior, far away from the more Western-style civilization on the coasts, the regular troops have a dual purpose. One is to keep at least a fatherly eye on security and to spot any early signs of renewed insurgency. The other is to assist in the complicated civil aid programme which is now well under way.

The two are obviously inter-dependent. As long as the civil aid programme continues to bring material benefits to the tribesmen tending their cattle in the remote settlements in the mountains, insurgency is improbable. If at any time it should be seen to falter, however, the PDRY propaganda which still filters into Oman—more particularly in Dhofar—could start to win back a few converts. There are still enough people around who might be described as rebels without a cause, and it would be a little short of a disaster if they suddenly discovered one.

So there is an obvious and quite important role for the SAF in the road-building, well-sinking, air transport operations that are now helping the Sultan to capitalize upon the peace. They have the training, the equipment and the manpower to push the schemes forward.

The forces are trying to press forward with this double purpose, while at the



same time carrying out a slow, not always painless progress towards Omanization of their own ranks.

Substantial strides have already been made in this direction, but it is a slow business and to some extent has been overtaken by the growth in size and complexity of the force structure. The number of British troops in Oman under what is called "direct assistance"—which means that the cost of keeping them there is borne largely by Britain—has gone down to about 50. These include a medical team, some Royal Engineers and an estimated 15 members of the Special Air Service who help to train the Firqat. At one time the number of SAS was as high as 60. But there are still 200 British personnel, officers and senior non-commissioned officers on loan to the SAF, which means that the costs are paid by the Omani Government. And as many as 465 former British servicemen are serving under independent contract to the Sultan. This adds up to about 700 hard to match in a country which is going through such a dramatic modernization.

phased out of their posts during the next three or four years.

The original plan was for the British to be gradually replaced until the British commander himself finally returned in 1981. But it will craft a struggle to meet that the demands on skill are schedule. Actually since the going up rather than down the division of the SAF into three more closely defined expansion which has taken arms, a navy, army and air force, each with a British officer in charge, the job Omanization are all too has become slightly more apparent. As it is the army, difficult if only because estimated at about 15,000 three senior Omani officers will be needed instead of one.

The basic difficulty is that of finding officers with enough education to take over. The SAF is now launching a big drive to try to persuade intelligent, ambitious young Omanis to return to the country from lucrative jobs abroad. The minimum level of education demanded is only equivalent to that of the British 11-plus, even that is hard to match in a country which is going through such a dramatic modernization.

There are just ing craft.

Moreover, the introduction of ever more advanced weapons, such as Jaguar aircraft and Rapier anti-aircraft missiles means that the number of Omanis has gone down since the end of the war, but the SAF says that it is in no hurry to see the others follow them back to Teheran. The Iranian presence is a comforting insurance against further trouble and may well remain until the process of Omanization is nearer to completion.

In summary, the armed forces need to use the peace both to build up their own strength for the long-term future, with Omanis rather than British officers in the front line, and to enable them to continue playing a leading part in the civil aid programme.

According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the air force has only 36 combat aircraft—16 Hunters, 12 Jaguars and eight Strike masters. There are also transport aircraft and helicopters, which are important for the civil aid programme. The small coastal navy consists largely of fast patrol boats and a few landing craft.

Meanwhile 1,000 Iranian troops remain in Oman, along with a detachment of Jordanian engineers. The number of Omanis has gone down since the end of the war, but the SAF says that it is in no hurry to see the others follow them back to Teheran. The Iranian presence is a comforting insurance against further trouble and may well remain until the process of Omanization is nearer to completion.

The author is Defence Correspondent, The Times.

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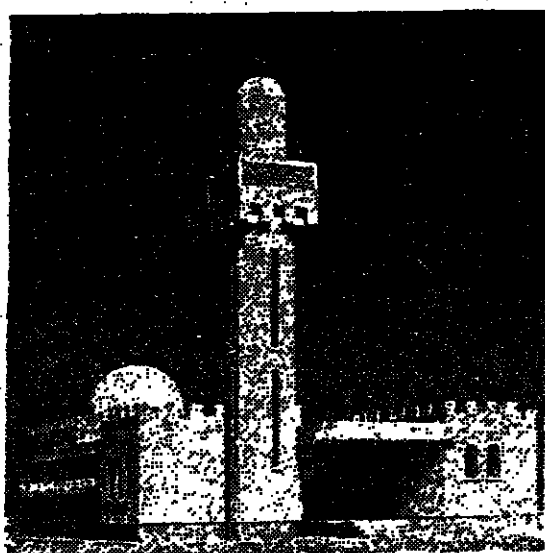
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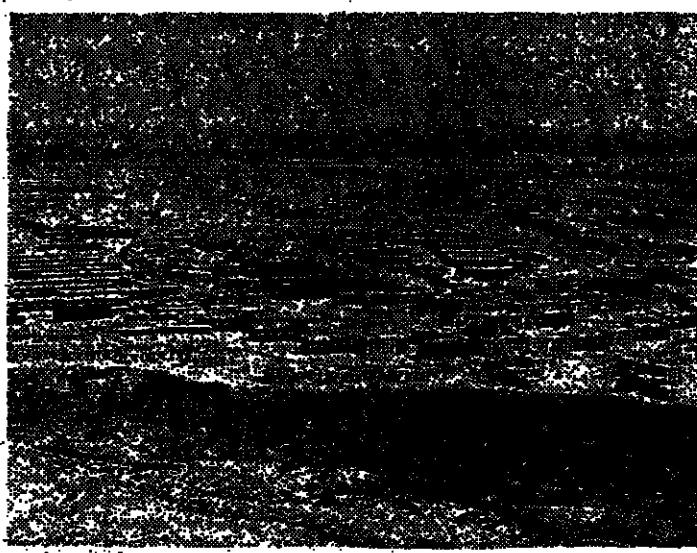
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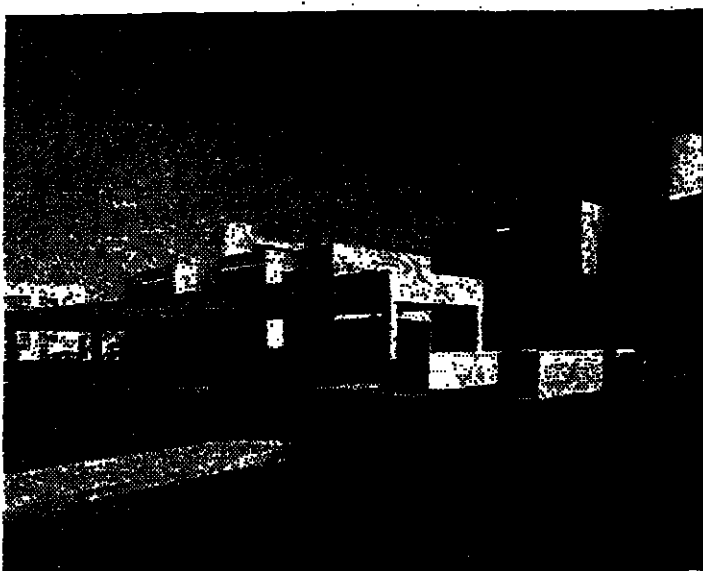
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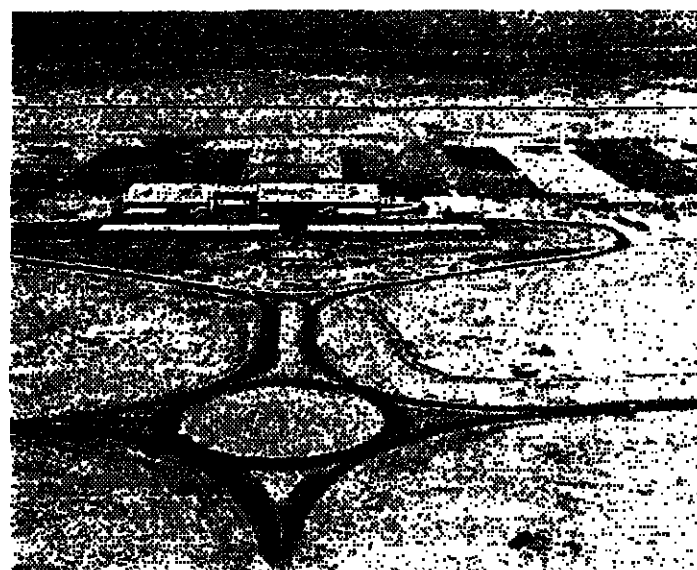
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FOCUS ON

AGRICULTURE, FISHING AND MINERALS

Harvest great but labourers few

by Tim Owen

More than half the population of Oman is engaged in farming, a fact that is by no means appreciated outside the sultanate. The drift in recent years from the land to the coast and the towns where the great development schemes offer more lucrative forms of employment has been one of the major troubles of those responsible for the development of agriculture. Until recent years the greatest export from Oman was manpower because of chronic unemployment at home. Now the situation has been reversed: there is a shortage of labour in the country, and Omanis abroad are being urged to return.

Agriculture is one of the major areas of long-term development planning in Oman and the dilemma that goes with it is one of the most intractable, and most

of these are human. A flood of figures, statistics and percentages not only tends to baffle the reader, but to cloud the issues. Developments in agriculture are longer term and less dramatic than in other spheres of development and therefore attract less attention, but this does not detract from their importance and fascination.

The drift from the land is a short to medium-term difficulty. As major constructional projects are completed so will the demand for labour in the towns decrease. Unfortunately there is a tendency for those who have left the land for work in the towns to get accustomed to urban life, and a return to the land has little appeal for them. Inducements, financial and otherwise, have to be considerable to persuade them to do so.

Another major problem is the inane conservation of the farmer the world over,

and Oman is no exception in this respect. The size of the average holding is two hectares, really too small a unit to be farmed profitably with modern methods. It can also lead to all sorts of other problems.

For example, during the 1960s the lime gardens on the Batinah coast were afflicted by an infestation of blackfly, believed to have originated from the other side of the Gulf of Oman. Farmers were offered insecticide and the means of spraying it at highly subsidized rates through the Government farm at Sohar. Some farmers accepted the scheme and rid their gardens of the pest. Others refused, either because they were suspicious or did not have the financial means.

The result was that gardens that had been cleared of the blackfly were quickly reinfested from neighbouring gardens which had not been cleared. The same has happened with a disease called *matuq* which attacks the date palm, but can be arrested by aerial spraying.

The main limitation on agriculture in Oman is irrigation. The rainfall throughout the sultanate is too sparse for farming without irrigation. Two methods of irrigation are traditionally used in the country. Particularly in the mountainous interior the *fala* system is used. This was introduced into Oman 1,000 years ago or more by the Persians, and many of the *qilaf* still operating perfectly in the interior are 800 or more years old.

Water is tapped at source in the mountains and is led by artificial subterranean channels to a point in the plain where it is brought to the surface for irrigation purposes. The other method is by sinking wells to the water table, and pumping water out with the use of diesel-operated pumps.

This method is used on the Batinah coast where the water table is 5ft to 8ft below ground level. So great has been the draw on the water table in recent years that salt water seepage from the sea is beginning to affect it.

The Omani Government has been energetically pursuing means of dealing with these problems. The most important has been the education of the farmer in modern methods of agriculture

and the use of pesticides. To this end there are four research stations on the coast and in the interior, where experiments are carried out with various crops, seed trials, use of fertilizers and pesticides.

There are also seven Government production farms, where the results of experimentation are put into practice. The link between the research stations and production farms on the one hand and the individual farmers on the other are 30 extension centres, which the Government has established in the different agricultural regions of the country.

It is from these centres that seed, plants, fertilizers and pesticides are distributed to farmers. Agricultural machinery is also available on loan, and advice on improving farming methods is provided at these centres. Farmers are encouraged to form co-operatives, and farmers are not persuaded until they can see the practical benefits that can be achieved by so doing.

Extensive water surveys have been carried out in Oman in recent years by British, French and Dutch consultants, and the results indicate that there are considerable, but not unlimited reserves of underground water fit for irrigation purposes: enough to double the area of the areas already under cultivation.

The Government hopes that a combination of improved farming methods and an increase in the area under cultivation will eventually make Oman self-sufficient in many agricultural products, while also enabling Oman to export agricultural products to other states in the region.

One of the most interesting aspects of agricultural development in Oman is the increasing demand for a wider variety of fruit and vegetables as the standard of living improves. Many vegetables of the European variety, unobtainable in Oman a few years ago, except when imported at considerable cost are now grown there in the winter.

Cattle raising, which has been the traditional livelihood of the Jebel tribesmen of Dhofar, is being extended and new stock has been introduced to raise cattle for beef as well as for milk production. Poultry farming is also being greatly increased using the latest methods.

Good prospects for mining

Ever mindful of the knowledge that the supplies of oil upon which the economy of Oman so heavily depends are finite, the government has long-term plans to exploit other natural resources in the country.

Agriculture and fisheries are two of them and a third and more speculative one, at least now, is in minerals. Much of the country is rugged and mountainous and many parts are still inaccessible by modern transport. Unfortunately they are precisely those areas where the potential for minerals exist.

The presence of minerals in the sultanate has been known for several thousand years. Copper, in small quantities, was being mined 2,000 years ago, and in recent surveys copper diggings in use until 300 years ago have been discovered.

Recent surveys have proved that enough copper, asbestos and coal exist for extraction to be worth while. The extraction of copper ore is due to start in 1978 in northern Oman. Deposits lie in the mountainous area of the Wadi Jid near Sohar.

Before the ore can be extracted it has been necessary to build roads. Until recently only tracks led through those mountains, the Hajjar range, which extend from the interior to the coast. They followed the wadi beds and were only fit for Land-Rovers.

After heavy rain the tracks either washed away or became blocked with boulders. Now a new tar-mac road has been constructed through the Wadi Jid connecting Buraimi in the interior with Sohar on the coast.

The three copper mines to be opened in the Wadi Jid area are planned to produce 3,000 tons of copper ore a day, employing 400 workers. The existing partners in the scheme are Marshall Oman Exploration Inc. of the United States and Prospection (Oman) of Canada.

Latest reports suggest that the Government of Oman intends that the Oman Mining Company, which is being established to develop and operate the project, should have a 75 per cent Government holding.

An agreement has been signed between the sultan-

ate of Oman and Saudi Arabia by which Saudi Arabia will contribute \$100m to the estimated \$120m to finance a large copper smelting project at Sohar. It is estimated that the plant, the first of its kind in the Arabian peninsula, will produce 2,000 tons of copper a year. A port will have to be built at or near Sohar for its export.

Asbestos of good fibrous quality has been discovered in the mountainous areas of northern Oman near Saham on the north-west coast, not far from the areas where the copper deposits have been found. The Swiss-Lebanese company, Eternit, has been undertaking the prospecting and making feasibility studies, and has an extraction contract for the production of asbestos in the area.

Oman's first asbestos cement pipe factory recently started production. Its initial capacity of about 36,000 tons will be increased progressively to meet the entire domestic requirement of the country. Oman now has to import large quantities of asbestos-cement pipes for various developments.

At the other end of the Hajjar range in the south-eastern corner of Oman the presence of large deposits of coal has been confirmed. It is estimated that about 10 million tons could be extracted. It is a particularly remote and inaccessible part of the country.

In the northern mountains there are good prospects for the quarrying of high quality limestone and marble. Deposits of chrome, lead, zinc, nickel and iron ore have also been found.

In the south-east near Sur, deposits of manganese have been identified. In the southern mountains of Dhofar prospecting and surveying for mineral deposits has begun but to date nothing of importance has been found.

The Government thinks prospects are good for mineral discovery and exploitation. But a considerable amount of surveying remains to be carried out in a large country, and there will be further feasibility studies.

Much also depends on opening up the country by improving communications.

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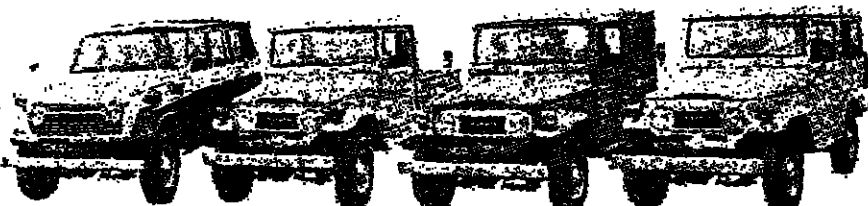


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Not only is there an abundance of fish, but also a great variety, including tuna, shark and barracuda in the deeper waters. Inshore there are mackerel, king fish and great shoals of sardines, which on the Batinah coast are caught by the local fishermen, piled up at the head of the beach to dry and then used as fertilizer.

In Dhofar, in the south, the dried sardines are used as cattle fodder during the humid monsoon season, when alfalfa will not grow. Around the rocky shores of Masirah island in the south are found magnificent lobster.

Until 1970 no progress or even planning had been made in the development of fisheries, but after the accession of Sultan Qaboos in that year a fisheries department was set up within the Ministry of Development and the first big project was launched in 1972. That was a \$2m contract to an American corporation, based in California, which was later joined by FMC International and Del Monte International, and American, in undertaking onshore and offshore research, with the aim of setting up a fishing industry in Oman.

The next year a modern fisheries research vessel, the *Darab*, was bought from Peru. This vessel was useful for collecting information on the deep sea fisheries and coastal waters, as well as providing training for Omani fishermen in modern trawling. The first stage of the research programme was

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FOCUS ON

IRRIGATION, EDUCATION AND ARCHITECTURE

Blessed by beneficent rainfall

by Norma Ashworth

All of the newly rich Arab oil states have found difficulties with their water supplies. Sudden development has brought indiscriminate use and it has been found that costly desalination plants cannot completely meet the long-term demands of self-sufficiency.

Oman acted early by appointing engineering specialists, hydrologists, hydrographers and academics to work on mapping programmes and feasibility studies. By early 1973, there were three large engineering companies (British, French and Italian) surveying water resources.

The Durham University Research Project had a team of four graduates at Irbid, which studied water supplies in relation to conservation and agriculture. Two more engineering consultancy firms later joined the government survey and the FAO, and the United Nations Development Programme prepared a joint report, linked with the previous studies.

By the beginning of 1977, the Water Resources Council secretariat in Muscat was able to prepare a comprehensive report. Oman was thus able to send a delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Petroleum and Minerals to the United Nations Water Conference held in Argentina last March and to present a paper which attracted considerable interest.

The rain falls during December to March in most areas, except in Dhofar, which gets summer rain and a tropical drenching mist beneficial to agriculture. There are also occasional summer rains in the interior, where flash flooding in the wadis can be an unpredictable hazard as well as a boon to vegetation.

Generally, the rainfall is higher in the mountains, particularly in the Jabal Akhdar, which constitutes the basic source of water for the valleys and the northern coastal area.

Where the groundwater resources discharge naturally as springs and base

flows in the mountain regions, or the water is extracted by means of *afjaj* (plural of *fajaj* or underground irrigation channel), it is still regarded as the most important source for irrigation purposes.

Dug wells are common in oases and all the groundwater extracted from the alluvial aquifer system of the Bahinah coastal plain is taken by means of wells.

Increased extraction of groundwater allows the sea-water level to encroach. Cultivation on the coastal strip runs for some 200 miles from Muscat to Khor Fakkan where Oman's mountain spine breaks out into the sea after forming a protective mass for extensive areas of plantation.

Archaeology has found a network of ancient canals in this strip, which supports the claim that Oman's coast was the garden of Arabia.

The decline in water supplies had many causes: the raising of forests in order to clear land for agriculture and to use the wood for industrial fire pits and kilns; the choking of reservoirs and canals as erosion gained ground; the tribal warfare and destruction of *afjaj* and wells.

Now that considerable historical information has been amassed and the resources assessed, the Water Resources Council is ready to draw up a national water plan. A meeting held on October 26 invited government representatives and interested citizens and expatriates to form an advisory committee.

The following suggestions are under consideration: construction of recharge dams on wadis in the coastal plain to prevent surface runoff into the sea; reuse of treated waste water for irrigation; use of solar energy and sea water to grow high-value crops; use of satellites to assist in transmitting information from remote sites to a central agency for better water management; introduction of an irrigation management service to all farmers, providing them with accurate information on the amount of water needed for crop support; and development of better maintenance

techniques for the *fajaj* system.

Dr R. L. de Jong, the council's secretary told the meeting that the simplest part of the plan had already been done—an inventory of the resources. The complex task of balancing supply and demand, taking into account all policy, legal and economic considerations is to come. There are expected to be tortuous dealings and delicate negotiations over traditionally held water rights.

Oman is to be the first field testing ground in the peninsula for a light-weight type of windmill, which has had a year's trial at Reading University under the direction of the International Technology Development Group. It will be tried out at Al-Khabourth in collaboration with the Durham University project.

It will provide water, not for irrigation, but for washing and general cleaning needs in a typical coastal village. The wind regime is thought to be favourable for testing conditions of the windmill.

An Oman business concern, Darwish-Ast, has offered to construct the windmill free of charge, an offer which the project's field director, Dr Roderick Dutton, feels confident will allow for a second stage of experiments. It may be possible to have a solar heating tank and a scheme for purification to provide drinking water.

The oil camp at Fahud carries out rudimentary purification through reverse osmosis, and elsewhere systems of filtration to reduce salinity are being tested. On the coast, west of Muscat, the Government's desalination plant has experienced some difficulties since opening in 1976 but it is expected that the present capacity of four million gallons a day can be increased to six million.

However, many obstacles are still to be surmounted. Oman is regarded by its neighbours as blessed by its comparably beneficent rainfall in the desert territories and possession of the monsoon climate in richly-fertile Dhofar.

Wars of the Roses give way to Islam

Six years have passed since Oman, after the accession of Sultan Qaboos in 1970, embarked on an urgent programme of development in education, and a hectic and exciting period it has been. So great was the demand, not only for children but for adults as well, that classes were held in tents and classes took place in shifts in the early stages.

A further problem has been a desperate shortage of trained Omanis, so that most teachers have come from Egypt, Jordan and Sudan. However, only a few years later these difficulties have been challenged and surmounted. From three boys' primary schools with 900 pupils in 1970 the figure has risen to 213 primary schools and 45 secondary schools (all permanent buildings, and none tented) in 1977 with 46,510 boys and 15,044 girls—a truly remarkable achievement.

The present year is a significant one for the educational programme. It represents a change of emphasis and a time for reflection and consolidation. The children who started their education at the age of six have now reached an age when they are due to move on to secondary education.

The emphasis is now on the building of secondary schools rather than on primary schools, where the programme has reached its target.

Progress has obviously been slower in the mountainous regions of the interior than on the coast owing to communication problems and the isolation of many of the villages. However, it is estimated that about 50 per cent of Omani children are now receiving some form of education. The numbers going on to secondary education will increase markedly in the coming years.

The aim of the Ministry of Education is that all Omani children should have at least nine years education, six years primary, three years preparatory and three years of secondary education.

The total number of teachers has risen from 30 in 1970 to 2,876 in 1977, and

of necessity the great war and those who had been separated from their families and indoctrinated with communism. A special task of training these children, aged from six to sixteen, outside Salalah at the personal expense of Sultan Qaboos, who has shown an intense concern in the school's progress. There are now 51 schools in operation with a total of 5,645 pupils. Dhofar is catching up fast with the remainder of Oman.

In addition to the teacher training institute at Qurum, the Ministry of Education has three major projects due for completion in 1978. An agricultural school will be opened at Niwra, in the interior, where three-year courses will be held for students who will eventually qualify as agricultural officers. There will also be one-year courses for young people who are to be employed in private farming. The school will have a capacity for 180 students, all boarders.

A basic training school with a capacity for 288 students is to be established at Sohar on the Bahinah coast, where three-year courses will be held. Students will receive a secondary education with a technical bias, and those who show aptitude can qualify for a further course of two years, during which they will be taught technical subjects.

A girls' preparatory school is to be opened at Ruwi, near Muscat, where the emphasis will be on domestic science. It will take a total of 288 students (not boarders) for a three-year course covering formal education, as well as nutrition, cookery and sewing. The World Bank will assist in financing all these projects.

Finally, there is the question of advanced education for Omanis. There are at present 509 students receiving education at universities and institutes abroad, mostly in Egypt, Jordan, Britain and the United States, studying engineering, medicine, commerce and the arts.

There was, in addition, the special problem of children orphaned by the

majority of these are ex-patriate Arabs. The ministry has now embarked on the formidable task of training these children, aged from six to sixteen, outside Salalah at the personal expense of Sultan Qaboos, who has shown an intense concern in the school's progress. There are now 51 schools in operation with a total of 5,645 pupils. Dhofar is catching up fast with the remainder of Oman.

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To Let sign appears in housing desert

The newest sign appearing in and round the cities of Oman today is to let. The housing boom has passed its peak and the frenzied activity of seven years has begun to lose momentum. In the first years of Sultan Qaboos's accession, there were urgent priorities for schools, hospitals and government offices. Then housing and hotels joined the queue in need of architects and builders and the heavily-populated areas of the country became a landscape of bewildering change.

It was an exciting blossoming, even if at first the spread of houses appeared more like the outbreak of an uncontrollable rash. The architects had the opportunity to be imaginative and experimental and the builders to gain rapid experience in using new techniques and materials. There was, in fact, an orderliness behind the scenes. Regulations for land use and the scale of buildings were strict; penalty clauses against completion dates or dubious quality were punitive.

The planning of those first years is now more apparent with the completion of new roads, drainage systems and controlled boundaries. What seemed haphazard has become a pattern (as in the much-criticised Ruwi Valley), not universally praised but acknowledged to have been developed with foresight.

Economic stringencies have now overtaken extravagance and the progress of building has slowed to what would nevertheless be regarded as a fairly spirited gallop in a European country.

For the larger public buildings, architectural commissions on an international scale are being favoured increasingly over the previous invitations for tenders. The new cuts have not meant any lessening of work for architects or builders at present. The shortage of trained builders, in particular, will take many years to overcome but the overall pic-

ture has fewer private projects scheduled for the next year in comparison with the last.

At the beginning of the era of oil prosperity, Oman changed in one year more than in the previous 200 and yet, in architectural terms, it is not a new story. The coastal cities have attracted extensive foreign trade in times of sea-spread affluence, the merchants borrowing ideas of opulence from the palaces of India, China and Iran to blend with the purity of traditional Arab architecture. Invaders in past centuries (notably the Persians and the Portuguese) imposed architectural styles of exceptional splendour which filtered from the coast to merge into the finest buildings of tribal settlements.

The tenets of Islam, as practised in Oman in accordance with the somewhat ascetic Ibadhi doctrine, allowed no reverence for buildings and even the mosques had in past years a simplicity uncommon in other Muslim countries. This has impeded conservation and only the sturdiest of ancient buildings have withstood the depredations of tribal warfare and the natural decline of communities through times of trade stagnation. The sixteenth-century fortresses remain the most dramatic examples of early Omani architecture and only at Sohar and Hamra are there genuinely old houses in a good state of repair.

For the rest, the most beautiful residences of earlier times are rarely older than 180 years. Since 1970, great efforts have been made to protect Oman's architectural heritage and restoration programmes are assured of generous revenues from the Treasury.

The discerning eye comes to recognize the pure architecture of Oman implicit in its handsome wooden doors, iron-studded and lavishly carved; the window screens of wooden filigree; the symmetrically graduated arched prayer niches; classical, unadorned pillars and delicately-crenellated roof edges.

It is difficult to classify a standard architectural theme, however, as the influences of other countries building styles have been allowed to spread without hindrance or official disapproval. Here is an echo of Omani tolerance towards the customs and beliefs of outsiders and willingness to accept the best ideas of alien cultures.

The traditional building materials of the Arabian peninsula are mud-brick mixed with straw and dung strengthened with support of precious timber for substantial town houses. The village huts and dwellings of semi-nomadic tribes are made of *barasti* (dried palm stems and fronds) woven into patterns of surprising complexity. They are picturesque shelters, or rather packing materials gathered round the suks of modern Oman became the means of building on flimsy annexes.

Today's foreign architects working in Oman have respect for the old styles of building, recognizing that the fundamental designs had stood the test of perhaps the harshest climate in the world before the arrival of electricity and air-conditioning. They have been able to learn from the past lessons of thick walls and small, shaded windows, central courtyards, cool verandas and ingenious air venting.

Economy is the reason that the first houses for Europeans, built as a residential camp when oil exploration began, are visually inimical to the landscape. The high costs involved in importing all of the materials when the camp was established in 1964 dictated a certain uniformity.

Such is far from the case with Oman's modern residential showpiece, Mafinat Qaboos. Here, the balance has been achieved. Old fort-like outlines, softened and adapted, mask spacious, luxurious interiors and provide a marvellous man-made horizon of unguessable age for the road travellers, on their way to and from Muscat and Sib International airport.

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FOCUS ON**HEALTH AND CONSTRUCTION****Accent is on preventing the old scourges**

by Tim Owen

When touring through the sultanate of Oman in 1977 it is difficult to appreciate that only seven years ago there was only one hospital in the whole country, and that was the American Mission Hospital in Muscat. Now there are hospitals in all large centres of population and clinics and health centres to serve the rural areas.

Before the development of the health services the main scourges of Oman were tuberculosis, malaria, dysentery, and trachoma, the eye disease, spread by fly-infected dust, which leads to blindness if not treated in its early stages.

Particularly in the villages of the interior there is ample evidence to this day of

the tragedy of blindness which has afflicted young and old alike. The mortality rate of babies was very high, and epidemics of measles and influenza would sweep through whole areas, particularly among the Bedu tribes, killing off hundreds, already weakened by malnutrition.

There is a striking parallel between the problems and developments of the health and education services. Both have reached a stage of development when there is a pause for consolidation and a switch of emphasis.

Initially under the driving force of Dr Asim al-Jamali, and later Dr Mubarak al-Khaduri, the Ministry of Health has put through an impressive programme for the construction of hospitals, health centres, clinics and ancillary facilities. There are now 13 hospitals, 11 health centres and 42 dis-

pensaries and clinics throughout the country.

The construction programme is almost completed, and now the emphasis has been shifted to preventive medicine and health guidance. An immunization programme has been launched and is gaining momentum. This especially applies to malaria, which has been endemic in the areas of date gardens, where stagnant irrigation water produces ideal conditions for the anopheles mosquito.

Great importance is attached to the education of women and children in health matters, a subject which requires careful and careful handling. Personal hygiene, nutritional habits, cleanliness in the home and the disposal of rubbish all have a bearing on the rate of intestinal diseases such as dysentery and gastro-enteritis, as well as hepatitis and

trachoma. Outside the towns most drinking water is obtained from wells and contamination of such water and the dangers to health that go with it have to be explained to the villagers.

When Sultan Qaboos acceded in 1970 there was only one trained Omani doctor, Asim al Jamali, and he was practising in voluntary exile in the Trucial States as he refused to return to Oman under the regime of Sultan Said bin Taimur. In 1970 he returned to become the first Minister of Health under the new regime. It therefore follows that from the beginning the health service was entirely dependent on expatriate doctors, nurses and technical staff.

Most of the doctors are Indian and Pakistani. Only about 20 of the 200 doctors practising in the sultanate are Omani. Omani doctors are being trained abroad.

Training is long and so Oman will have to rely on expatriate doctors for many years to come.

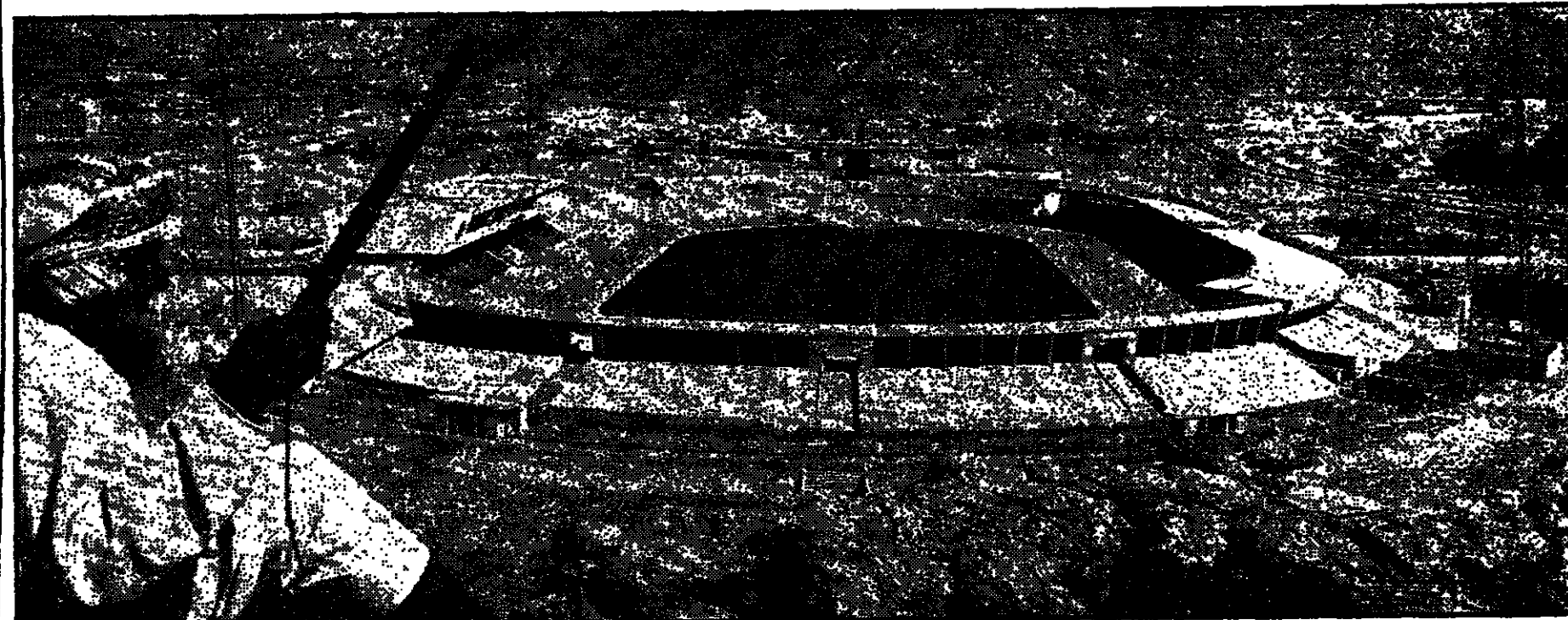
In the early years of the health programme construction got well ahead of staffing with the result that in one case a hospital was completed in all respects near empty for some months because of lack of staff. At Rostaq the new hospital under the charge of an indefatigable Indian doctor with a team of Swedish nurses was able to deal only with maternity cases and outpatients. Although fully equipped with the most modern equipment it lacked the staff to deal with surgical cases.

These difficulties have been surmounted. Indian and Pakistani doctors are far better paid in Oman than in their own countries. Most of the nurses, technicians

and health assistants also come from the Indian sub-continent, and will continue to do so until Omanis can be trained to replace them.

In Dhofar, as the areas where the fighting was taking place have been brought under control, clinics have been set up in the villages, and a flying doctor service was instituted because of the lack of road communications. The original 80-bed hospital in Salalah has now been replaced by a new 250-bed hospital, recently opened.

Much is being done in the schools to educate the younger generation in hygiene and health care. As housing conditions improve together with sewage disposal, water supplies, improved nutritional standards, immunization and general health education, so will the diseases endemic to Oman be overcome and eliminated.



The police sports stadium, near Watayah, which can accommodate 20,000 people. Construction: Yahya Costain.

Room to build at the top in wake of boom

by John Whelan

Even in the expanding area of Matrah, Oman appears to have eschewed the Gulf maxim that in construction work cheapest and quickest is best.

According to an assessment by a British firm of quantity surveyors, D. J. Jones McCoach and Partners, the reduced workload brought about by the tightening of credit has resulted in tenders approximately 15 per cent lower than last year. Mr George McCoach says: "If you assume inflation at 15 per cent in the interim then in reality they are 30 per cent less."

The general direction of bank credit in the construction sector corroborates this view. In March 1976 credit in this sector, at 18.7m rials, was 12.3 per cent of total bank credit. By June of this year bank credit in the construction sector had fallen to 18.4m rials and then accounted for only 8.2 per cent of all credit.

The boom years have apparently gone, though Mr McCoach and other observers of the Omani economy see room for development at the top end of the market. His analysis of falling tender prices was based on an index for a typical shops, offices and flats development.

Oman may well have reached a stage where there is too little money available for property development. That is something which the formation of the Oman Housing Bank—in effect a recapitalization of the former Oman General Housing Development Authority which was established by the Government and the British Bank of the Middle East in 1974—is intended to remedy. The Housing Bank's aim is to bolster investment in housing for Omani nationals but it will also undertake related project construction finance.

An injection of capital into the property market could also come from the opening of the Development Bank of Oman in the new year which will be lending at commercial rates but over longer periods than the 20 commercial banks.

The reduced amount of work is also apparent in the public sector where the big joint-venture companies are operating. The United Kingdom's share of the market

for facilities in this sector is the most significant, with the big names, like Costain and Taylor Woodrow working in association with local partners.

In the private sector, businessmen such as the managing director of W. J. Towell and Company, Mr Ali Sultan, say the boom is over, particularly in construction. W. J. Towell was founded more than a hundred years ago and its associates include Taylor Woodrow International and Gray Mackenzie, both of the United Kingdom. Mr Sultan said: "I see some chances of more infrastructure development in the interior but the boom conditions are now unlikely to return. Taylor Woodrow Towell has recently had to lay off employees."

The consultants' view is that coupled with the reduced budget is a new selectiveness. One of them commented: "The Government is becoming much more conscious of the way it spends its money and much more interested in getting value for money."

This choosiness has been expressed in a Government decision to put designs for new buildings out for competition by consultants not only to find the most suitable design but also taking the fees into consideration. Contracts between a consultant and a ministry now have to be approved both by the ministry concerned and separately by the Ministry of Finance.

Civil contractors working in Oman also have to come to terms with the stated aim of the five-year plan to reduce the quantity of imported construction materials by expanding import substitution industries such as cement. To this end the Government has gone into a joint venture with the private sector to build a cement factory.

Overall it is the aim of the five-year plan to reduce the share of construction and building in gross domestic product from 58m rials in 1976 to 49m rials in 1980.

Most building contractors—and there were 795 registered contracting firms at the end of 1976—believe there is more development of ancillary structure which could take place, particularly in the south. Much will depend on the hopes of increased oil revenue and diversification of the economy into minerals and food production.

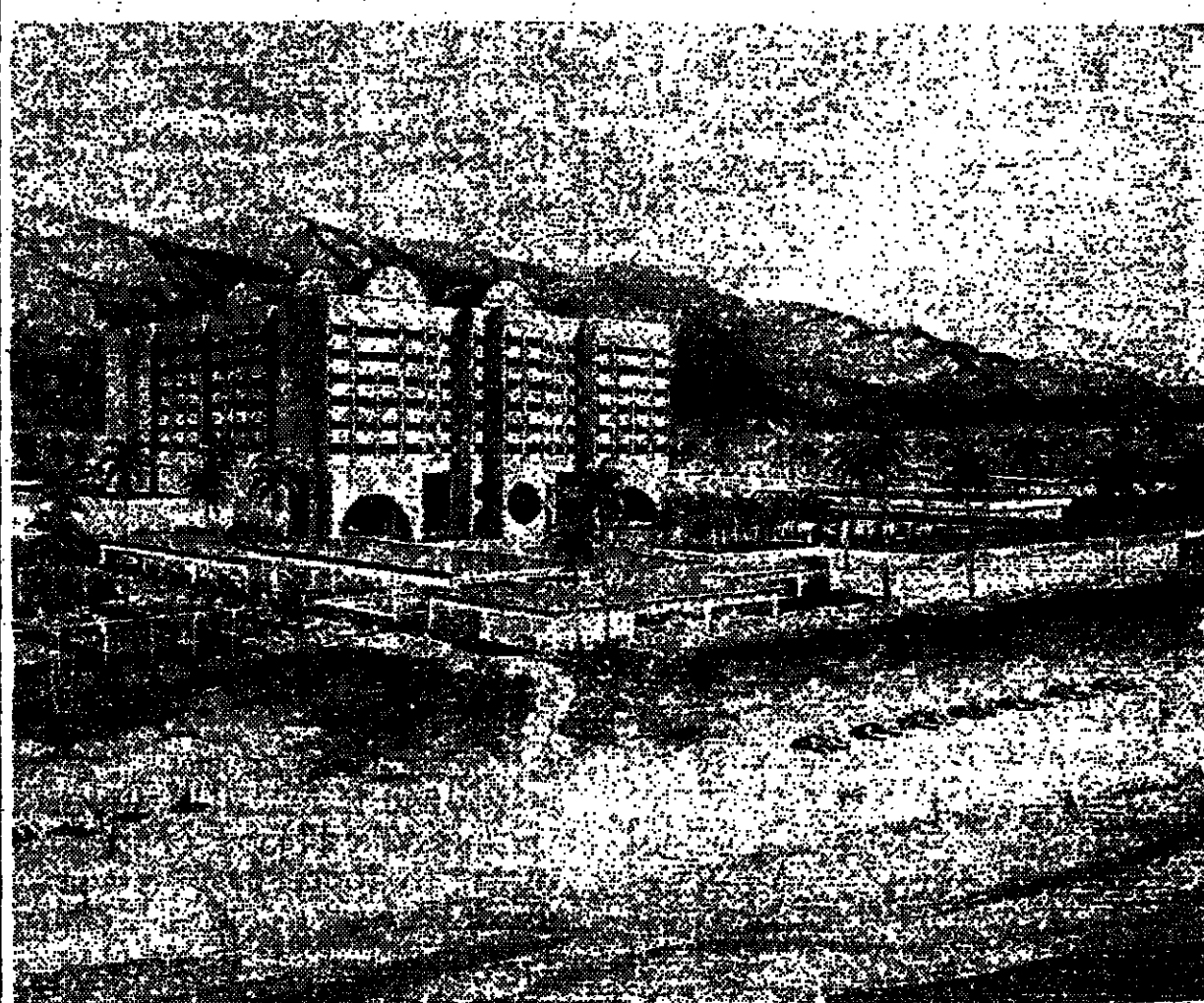
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FOCUS ON

DHOFAR AND MUSCAT

Cubans are given their marching orders

by Christopher Walker

Three years ago, the remote Dhofar village of Rakhyut served as the temporary headquarters of the Cuban-aided guerrillas who make up the revolutionary Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman. Today the area is firmly back in the hands of the Sultan's army; a new school stands out prominently from the ribbon of flat-roofed houses which straggles along the shore of the Indian Ocean, and work is due to begin soon on a police station, the first to be constructed in the wild, semi-desert area which has endured a long history of tribal anarchy.

The transformation of Rakhyut is an accurate reflection of the changes which have taken place elsewhere in Dhofar, the previously undeveloped southern region of Oman, since the palace coup which brought Sultan Qaboos bin Said to power in July 1970. The pace of improvement is still restrained by severe climatic and logistical diffi-

culties, but it has increased noticeably since fighting in the 10-year-old "secret war" ended in December 1975. "The Government recognized early that once the war was won, there would still be a long and expensive struggle ahead to win the peace", one senior British officer on loan to the Sultan's army explained. A positive indication of the relaxation in the security situation is the decision to stage this year's elaborate National Day celebrations in Salalah, the southern capital, rather than the traditional venue of Muscat, 500 miles to the north. Foreign diplomats regard this move as a sign of the Sultan's determination to unite his country in a way never attempted previously. It is an ambition which has been made more difficult by the lack of racial or tribal bonds between many of the estimated 100,000 Dhofaris and other Omanis.

Geographically, Dhofar covers an area the size of Wales, 38,000 sq miles of country which ranges from the tall, seductive coconut groves of Salalah to the bleak southern extremities of the arid, hilly Rub al Khali (the Empty Quarter). Its character and importance to Oman is largely dependent on the contrast which it makes annually with the tip of the south-westerly monsoon. The khareef winds blow in over the Indian Ocean surf for four months to ensure that the coastal strip and the southern edge of the jebel is covered with almost continuous cotton wool cloud from June until October. The region receives up to 30in of rain a year, most of which falls as fine drizzle like an Irish mist. This freak whim of the world's climate means that a narrow strip of tropical cultivation flourishes along the 50km length of the Salalah plain. Rising above it is the jebel, covered with thick scrub and scarred with deep wadis, behind which lie grass-covered uplands stretching inland for about 20km. Water remains the key to life in such a barren corner of the globe, and much of the Government's policy has been geared towards improving

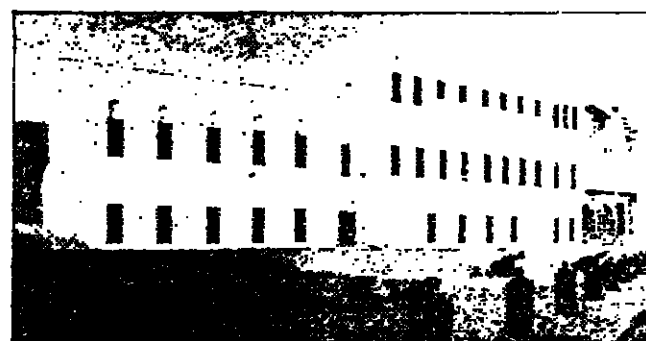
and extending the 4,000 or so cultivated acres on the plain, without damaging the natural resources which have permitted their survival. Since 1974, the Omani authorities and their many British advisers in Dhofar have been waging one of the most successful hearts and minds campaigns seen in the aftermath of fighting against extreme left wing forces. Based loosely around the construction of 20 habitation centres in the jebel, the central aim has been to woo the mountain tribesmen away from any support for the Marxists by providing them with adequate material and spiritual necessities for the first time in their lives. When completed, most of the isolated centres will be linked by some form of road network and will contain a school, health centre, fixed-price shop, well and a mosque. The last is described by one official as "a visible sign of anti-communism". The entire programme was originally under the control of the Civil Aid Department

supervised by a former British army major, Mr Martin Robb. But in recent months as an increasing air of normality has returned to a region for which guerrilla warfare had become a way of life, sedulous are being transferred to the ordinary government bodies. On September 1 responsibility for the pioneering rural health service was handed over to the Ministry of Health, and a parallel transfer of the jebel schools to the Education Ministry will take place soon. Alongside this extensive development programme, which has resulted in Dhofar being earmarked for 27 per cent of the expenditure in the five-year plan, activities in the military field are now concentrated on ensuring the long-term loyalty of the Firqas, a form of tribal home guard established as a buffer against any renewal of communist activity in the jebel. It now numbers 3,100 men, more than half of whom are former PFLO members who have been tempted to defect by an amnesv combined with considerable cash inducements.

Although the total number of Firqas is small, their role in preventing revival of PFLO activity is regarded as crucial by their British military commanders. As well as being paid a healthy monthly wage of £150, they are also provided with Belgian FN rifles and paid individual sums which are occasionally run into thousands of pounds for information leading to the discovery of enemy arms dumps. The purchase of loyalty has a long tradition in the Dhofar region, historically renowned for its vicious blood feuds and bloody inter-tribal disputes for control of the now defunct frankincense trade. Under the Sultan's guidance, the traditional methods are being accompanied by an imaginative development programme and intensive training in counter-terrorist techniques by members of the Special Air Service Regiment. Their chances of success and those of the whole region should be considerably assisted by last month's announcement that a \$300m oil drilling programme in Dhofar will begin next January.

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A touch of The Turl and influential ladies

"There was a little of Jerusalem to its mystique, a little of Charleston, just a touch of the back streets of Oxford, a trace of one of those little fishing ports on the Gulf of Venice—and the whole welded and illumined by an overpowering sense of the old Arabia, compounded of ships, lattice windows and hidden, influential ladies."

That was how the walled Omani capital of Muscat first struck James Morris, a distinguished former Middle East Correspondent of The Times, in 1956. Since then the sultanate has undergone a remarkable social and economic upheaval which has amounted to its transformation from a medieval to modern state, yet thankfully many of the city's picturesque characteristics have survived the inevitable bulldozers. One reason has been a deliberate policy in recent years to redirect all development inland to the sprawling and undistinguished new town of Ruwi.

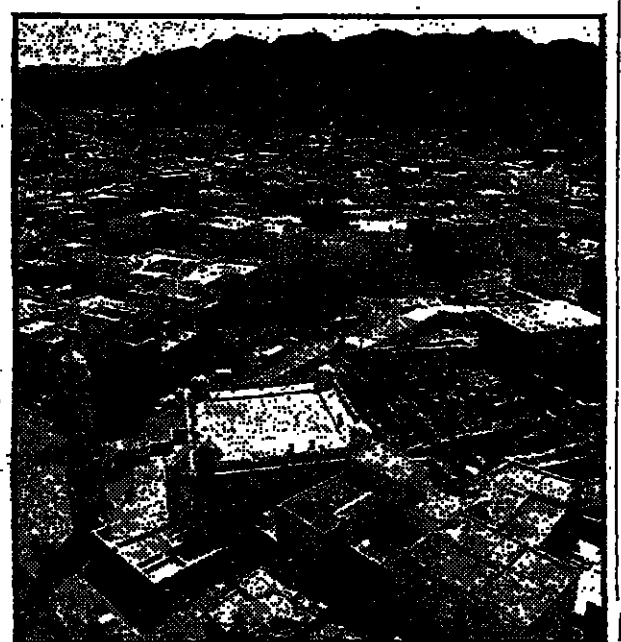
In the past many seasoned travellers have commented on the two most dominant aspects of Muscat, its blistering summer heat and its facility for imparting an immediate sense of history. As early as 1442, it was accurately described as one of the hottest places on earth by a Persian visitor who reported that the gems

in the handle of his dagger were reduced to coal by the heat. Daytime temperatures climb effortlessly into the 120s and the city is set in a semi-circular bowl formed by the rocky hills, the stone acts like fire-brick and the heat is retransmitted during the hours of darkness. Although British diplomats no longer follow the practice of their early predecessors, who used to sleep on the residency roof wrapped in wet sheets, the pace of life inside the baking mud walls of Muscat is still noticeably more relaxed than in other parts of the country.

The capital is no larger than a small English market town, with the bulk of its commercial activity historically lived off to the bustling twin port of Matrah, three miles along the coast. Consisting of predominantly white houses dwarfed by the impressive neo-mogul design of Sultan Qaboos's new seaside palace, Muscat has a waterfront of only a few hundred yards perched on the edge of a narrow sea anchorage. This is guarded on either side by two sixteenth-century Portuguese fortresses.

Muscat, the northerly of these two inhospitable looking buildings houses members of the Sultan's Royal Guard. Until 1970, a cannon was fired from its battlements three hours

after sunset each evening to warn residents that the iron-clad gates of the city were about to be shut. The practice was one of many smacking of the Middle Ages ordered by the old Sultan, who also insisted that anyone walking after dark inside the walls had to carry a lighted lantern.



A sector of Muscat, dominated as in all Arab cities by a mosque.

Across the water to the south lies Port Jela, which in the days of the previous regime was a notorious prison where scores of convicts were kept shackled to the walls in darkened cells. Since the accession of Sultan Qaboos, the gates of Muscat remain open around the clock and all the prisoners from Jela have been released.

An unusual feature of Muscat's natural harbour has been created by the long-running custom of visiting foreign naval vessels to inscribe their names in giant letters on the sheer rock walls which protect the anchorage. Legend and the previous Sultan, Said bin Taimur, both had it that Nelson was one of the first sailors to take part in one of the hazardous painting parties when he was still a midshipman.

Today, names like HMS Crocus and HMS Falmouth are still clearly visible on the rockface, although other contributions to this evocative form of naval graffiti have been obliterated by time and the sun. The sultanate's recent emergence into the twentieth century has done nothing to diminish the practice, no doubt to the chagrin of the redies who still have to wield the brushes and whitewash.

Apart from the Sultan's new palace, complete with gushing fountains and labouriously cultivated rose gardens, the British Embassy is the only other residential building in Muscat with direct access to the seafloor. Heavy with the atmosphere of Graham Greene, the courtyard was the scene in 1965 of the last occasion when a slave was given his freedom, or manumitted, by the British authorities under a nineteenth century treaty. "Although slavery had already been abolished, the man insisted that he was not free, so we gave him the necessary certificate", the diplomat involved explained.

In the narrow, dusty streets which surround the high embassy walls, Indian, African and Portuguese influences are constantly to be discovered blending with the Arab dress and customs of the native Omanis. It is this combination which still provides modern Muscat with a cosmopolitan character quite distinct from that to be found in any of the other Gulf capitals.

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FOCUS ON

FACTS AND FIGURES

Religion: cultural diversity in varied landscape

In the absence of any reliable census, the population total is uncertain, with estimates extending from 750,000 to 1,500,000. Whatever the exact figure, the inhabitants display a great ethnic and cultural diversity determined above all by the country's varied geography.

The largest category, probably accounting for almost two thirds of the population, are urban dwelling, concentrated in the strip of coastal

cities including Sohar, Sib, Muscat, and Sur. Traditionally living by trading and fish, the inhabitants of these coastal cities have most easily adapted to modernization and probably dominate Oman's fast growing services sector.

Tribalism, although still important, has been diluted by this transformation as well as by the influx of labour from Iran, Pakistan and India. The inhabitants of the Hajar mountains tend to be more traditional, with

firmer tribal divisions. Unlike the coastal inhabitants who tend to be Sunni or Shia, they are invariably followers of the austere Ibadhi sect and earn their livelihood from handicrafts in the main towns—Nizwa, Rostaq and Ibri—or from cultivation on terraced mountainsides.

The 25,000 Beduin who inhabit the 600-mile wide desert plain between the Hajar and Dhofar also practice a strictly orthodox form of Islamic faith, are firmly rooted in tribal structures and follow the traditional

occupation of herding goats, sheep and the prized Omani camels.

Isolated from the rest of the country are the 35,000 Dhofaris in the south-west, who are geographically as well as ethnically distinct from the rest of the country. Many are Hamitic rather than Semitic and, although bound by the common denominators of Islam, speak a variety of languages. And, in the Salalah area, an added ingredient is Negro stock from East Africa.

Because of the dominance of the Ibadhi sect, one of the earliest forms of Islam, the Islamic character of the country is profound. The religious law, or Sharia, is strictly followed, administered by the qadis. Its austerity has, however, been blunted by large numbers of Shiites in the coastal towns, especially among the merchant class. The inhabitants of the western edge of the Hajar mountains and the Beduin of the south-east are Sunni.

Much of the essential character of the population

has been diluted by the rapid urbanization which has accompanied Sultan Qaboos's modernization programmes. The capital, Muscat, and its twin city Matrah, probably have a combined population of 50,000 to 70,000 compared with 30,000 in 1968. The other coastal cities—such as Sohar and Sur—have grown almost as quickly. Salalah, the base of operations against the Dhofar rebels as well as the only port capable of serving southern Oman, is also being transformed.

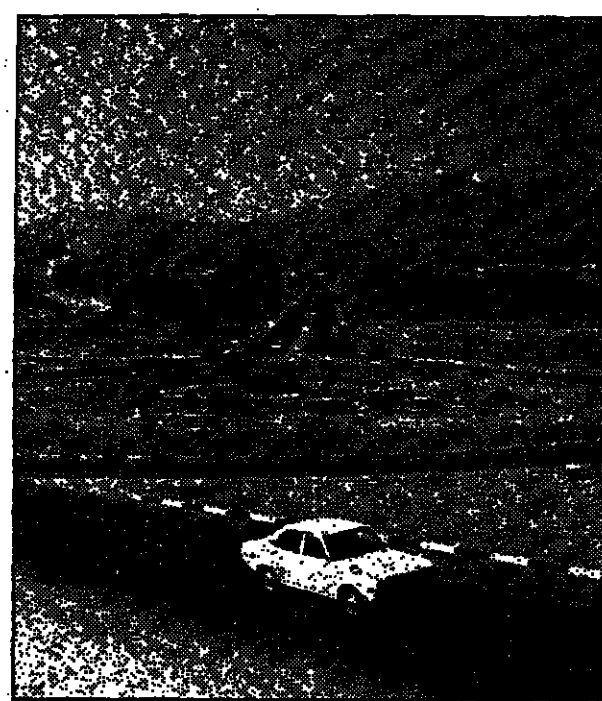
Benefits follow roads

A road map of Oman at the end of 1970 would have presented a clear picture of the plight of the country, dislocated and isolated as it was from its neighbours with a pitiful eight miles of Tarmac road and few unsurfaced tracks.

It is not surprising that Sultan Qaboos made road building and transport schemes a priority during the first years of his reign and earliest developments started in 1971 simultaneously with improvements to air and sea links, and included an asphalt surfaced road which ran 145 miles between Matrah and Sohar. This major construction immediately brought the small villages of the Batin coast in fairly close contact with the larger towns, and particularly with the new harbour at Port Qaboos.

Perhaps even more vital to the unification of the country was an asphalt highway running 86 miles from Sib, 20 miles north-west of Muscat where the country's first international airport was built, to Nizwa in the Hajar mountains of the northern interior. It was twice extended, linking the towns of Ibri and Dank with the Buraimi Oasis on the UAE border, and today a modern dual highway runs direct from Buraimi to the port at Abu Dhabi, thus greatly facilitating road haulage through the emirates to the rest of the Middle East and Europe.

Similarly, massive road



A dual carriageway in Ruwi Valley. Roadbuilding has been important to the country's unification.

construction in the south has done much to bring modern health, shopping and schooling to the geographically isolated and much embattled tribes of the Dhofar region. The only main road existing in 1970, joining the towns of Thumait and Salalah, was repeatedly cut by rebels but has now been remade, resurfaced and extended. It is to the credit of the Government of Oman that so much has been completed in such a short time. Asphalt roads running for 1,250 miles and 2,800 miles of graded roads were opened in 1976, but even so the rate of growth has barely kept pace with the demand for motorized transport. There were about 840 road vehicles registered in Oman at the end of 1970, but by 1976 the number had risen to 30,000. A total of 5,673 cars and 7,205 trucks and buses were imported last year alone, and the resulting pressure on the Government for improvements and extensions to the existing network is unlikely to diminish over the next few years.

As recently as last June,

Oman received a \$16.5m loan from the World Bank which will provide a substantial proportion of the sum required to implement a comprehensive training programme for road workers—aspects of the improving efficiency of the network which the Omanis take very seriously. Finance is also being sought from Saudi Arabia for the building of a further 85 miles of hard-surfaced roads around Dhofar. British consultants who have recently submitted an interim report on the feasibility study for the project estimate that the network will cost more than \$74m, and work will include the building of 16 administrative and social centres. With spending between 1971 and 1975 reaching well over 100m rials (\$308.7m), and the Ministry of Communications taking 13 per cent of the 1976-77 expenditure budget, transport schemes such as this have probably had the greatest economic and social impact of any project launched in Oman's renaissance.

Three-pronged power drive

The development of a water supply system to cater for residential, industrial and agricultural needs and the generation of enough electricity to meet peak demands is a problem which Oman planners and policy-makers have to face, as do those of other Gulf states. The generation of electricity is often linked to the desalination of water in those countries because of the speed in which such technology can be established and Oman has not, as yet, been an exception.

The Government has, however, recently appointed three United Kingdom consultants—Preece, Cardew & Rider, Sir M. MacDonald & Partners and Rendel Palmer & Triton—to prepare a power and water development programme for 1977-95. The work is to be done in three phases: (1) to determine the most economic development programme to meet power and urban needs to 1980, and to carry out approved projects under this short-term programme; (2) to determine power and water needs from 1981-85 and to prepare a broad plan for future projects required to meet needs for 1985-95; (3) to prepare recommendations for improvements in legislation, structure, organization, finance, procedures, operations and maintenance of the power and urban water systems of Muscat, Salalah and other specified towns and villages.

A power station and desalination plant was built at al-Ghubra but with too much haste. It was opened on the National Day in November, 1975, but was closed immediately afterwards because of technical problems. At last it now operates at capacity producing six million gallons of water a day and 38 MW of power.

The demand for water is greater from agriculture than the industrial and

domestic sectors. It is for this reason that studies are being carried out as to the viability of improving existing irrigation systems and setting up new ones.

This may include constructing small dams to harness the heavy rainfall in the Hajar mountains. It will definitely include large expenditures on maintaining the ancient falaj (underground channel) system which dates back from more than 2,000 years. The World Bank and its subsidiary, the International Development

Association, have lent money to the Government to finance the studies for the power and water development programme.

It is not known what the demand for electricity will be but in the meantime new stations are being built and some are being converted to run on gas rather than fuel. Hawker Siddley of the United Kingdom is still constructing 16 stations. Without doubt, however, when the present studies are completed development will progress speedily.



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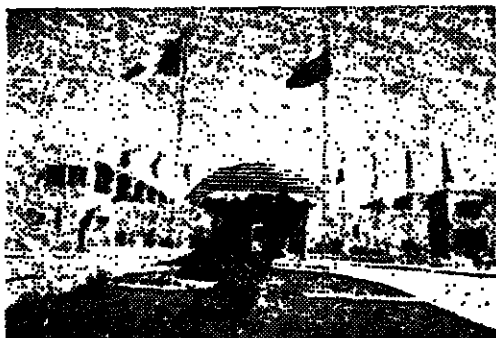
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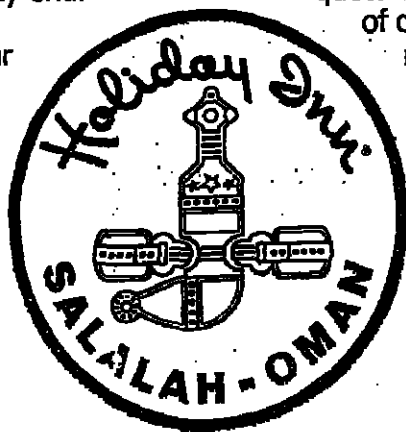
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Geography

Curved across the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula and covering 107,000 sq miles, Oman presents little geographic singularity. Most of the 1,500,000 inhabitants live in the fertile Batin coast along the Gulf of Oman. The coast is cut off from the interior by the rugged Hajar and Jabal Akhdar mountains which reach about 10,000ft.

The interior is mainly inhabited by Beduin and includes large areas of shifting sand in the south-east, tracts of gravel plain and the relatively fertile Dhofar plain, which edges into a mountainous zone at the Yemen border. In addition, Masira Island, off the south-east coast, there is also an enclave on the tip of Ras Musaid, near the coast, cut off from the rest of Oman by the United Arab Emirates.

Cereals, dates, pomegranates and limes are grown on the Batin coast, the Dhofar plain and on terraced mountain sides around Nizwa in the Jabal Akhdar, and cattle breeding is carried on extensively in Dhofar. With the exception of Dhofar, which catches the summer monsoon, most agriculture depends on the traditional system of underground water channels.

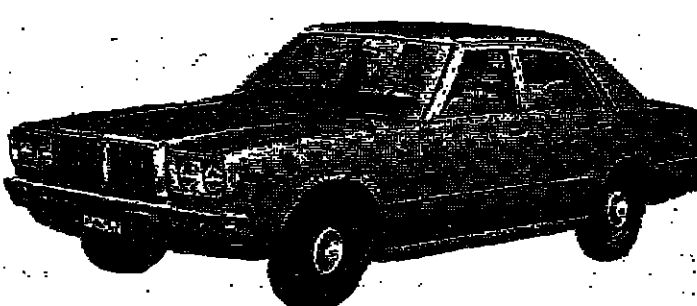
The climate is equally varied. In Muscat, average maximum temperatures in summer reach 41°C with 44 per cent humidity; the highest daily average temperatures in August in Salalah are only 30°C but with slightly higher levels of humidity. Rain, which usually falls in the summer in the south-east and in winter in the north-west, can be surprisingly heavy and averages 700mm in Muscat.

Commercial banks

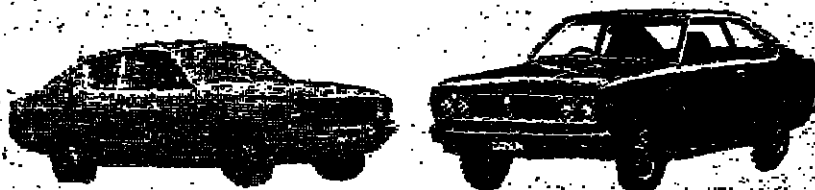
	No. of operating outlets
British Bank of the Middle East	17
Chartered Bank	6
Grindlays Bank	5
Habib Bank	10
National Bank of Oman	19 (L)
Arab Bank	4
Habib Bank, Zurich	3
Bank of Credit & Commerce International	11
Bank of Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait	3 (L)
Bank Mellat Iran	3
Citibank	2
Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas	1
Arab African Bank	1
Al Bank Alahli al Omani	1 (L)
Bank of Baroda	1
Union Bank of Oman	1 (L)
National Bank of Abu Dhabi	1
Commercial Bank of Oman	5 (L)
Bank Saderet Iran	1
Bank of Oman and The Gulf (licensed)	1 (L)

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Oil: production falling

Oil is one of the least developed of Middle East oil producers. While the oil sector is absolutely dominant, contributing 72.7 per cent of GDP and 90 per cent of government revenues, oil reserves are small and its quality is extremely poor. Even now, to maintain the comparatively modest rate of production, massive amounts of steam and gas must be injected and unit costs are consequently the highest in the Middle East.

The largest producing area at Fahud, which averages 280,000 barrels a day or 74 per cent of Oman's total production is nearing the limit of exploitation. New oil fields are being discovered and quickly brought on stream, production levels will fall from an estimated

139 million barrels in 1976 to 118 million barrels. Production is handled solely by Petroleum Development (Oman) in which the Government has a 60 per cent share. Shell 35 per cent and Compagnie Française des Pétroles 5 per cent. PDO, in addition to its operating fields at Fahud and Ghobas, has also been awarded the east Dhofar concession and plans to spend \$200m on exploring new discoveries which suggests reserves of at least 30,000 barrels a day.

Other concessions have been granted to Sun Oil for an off-shore area near Masirah Island, a French-Japanese consortium Elf-Sunior for the west, Winterhall of West Germany off the Bahinah coast and Elf-Aquitaine for

off-shore Musandam. Elf's concession off Musandam in the Strait of Hormuz seems most promising, considering the commercial discoveries in the Iranian half of the same concession. Unfortunately, deposits exist at a depth of 12,000 ft and exploitation may involve very high capital costs.

Oman's relationships with the oil companies are cordial and pragmatic. The Government has resisted the usual regional trend towards full state control and relies on its PDO partners for their technical skill. It is neither a member of Opec nor OAEPC but does follow Opec's pricing structure. In 1975, the Government adjusted the level of oil taxes and revenues to the Omani formula of 80 per cent and 20 per cent respectively. Since

1974, Oman has also earned increasing amounts from direct sales which, with a recent agreement with Gulf Oil and C. Itoh, have risen from 5,800,000 barrels in 1974 to 29 million in 1976.

Reserves of associated and unassociated gas are small—about 40 million cu ft—and are insufficient for Oman's tentative long-term plans for petrochemical and fertilizer industries. But plans have gone ahead for the laying of a 300 km pipeline from the Yibal fields to Chabrah near Muscat and the gas will probably be used to run a desalination plant and a cement factory.

The discovery of non-oil mineral resources has substantially brightened the obscured horizon. Proved copper reserves total about 18 million tons with good hopes

for more. Exploitation began in 1977 and a 3,000 tons a day copper smelter will be built at Sohar. The entire development will be handled as a joint venture by the Oman Mining Company in which the Government has a 51 per cent stake and the remainder shared by American and Canadian companies. Ultimate production by 1985 is set at 20,000 tons a year.

Large coal deposits, estimated at 10 million tons, have also been discovered in the mountains above Sohar. The development depends on the building of services, especially roads and ports. There are also substantial deposits of limestone which will be used in the new cement factory at Qurum, asbestos in Sohar, manganese near Sur, marble in the Hajar and phosphates in Dhofar.

Oil	1973	1974	1975	1976
Production (million barrels)	107.0	105.9	124.5	133.8
Exports (million barrels)	106.9	105.8	124.4	133.7
Japan (%)	(35.5)	(35.4)	(37.5)	(37.5)
Netherlands (%)	(8.1)	(1.8)	(20.5)	(20.5)
Trinidad (%)	—	(3.6)	(7.4)	(7.4)
France (%)	(17.4)	(12.0)	(6.9)	(6.9)
Britain (%)	(4.5)	(5.4)	(6.6)	(6.6)
Singapore (%)	(5.3)	(0.2)	(5.9)	(5.9)
Revenues (\$m)	173.3	844.0	1070.0	1362.0

Education and health

It is indicative of the greater social awareness of Sultan Qaboos that 5.4 per cent and 2 per cent of total government development expenditure in 1971-75 went on health and education respectively. Six years ago the country boasted only one hospital, run by American missionaries, and only three schools, educating fewer than 1,000 children. Now Oman has eight district hospitals in the capital area, 11 health centres and about 40 health dispensaries.

It also has 207 schools, of which 181 are primary, 23 are preparatory and three are secondary, educating 55,752 children. There are plans for future growth but the emphasis now is on quality rather than quantity. New school buildings have been built back from last year's total of 65 to a projected average of 25 a year.

There are two main problems associated with future growth. One is the prohibitive salaries of employing expatriate teachers and the second is raising the vocational nature of secondary education. Because of the almost total lack of education before 1970, the large workforce and potential workforce is illiterate or under-educated. About 85 per cent of the teachers in Oman come from other Arab countries such as Egypt, Jordan and Sudan, but to get them to work in the country high salaries have to be offered.

The average salary is about 150 rials a month (with up to 50 rials extra

offered to teachers who agree to work in the remote rural areas). This salary is four times the average earnings of a teacher in Egypt. Recurrent costs on government expenditure each year. Plans are therefore under consideration for three teacher-training colleges which will offer places for 500 men students and 200 women students of which the larger one will be financed 75 per cent by the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

On health, future improvements will be concentrated on the provision of health centres and dispensaries but some hospitals will be expanded. The number of centres will be increased from 11 to 26 over five years and the number of dispensaries will be increased to 80. The total of six land and sea mobile dispensaries, which came into operation earlier this year, will be increased. All this is to extend the sphere of health care to the remote areas which have not yet benefited sufficiently from the free health service.

The growth in the health sector is also stricken by the lack of qualified nationals.

Oman is fortunate to have a considerable leadership now, and to have oil revenue topped up by foreign aid to pay for its development programmes. Omani plans are long-term and expensive and it is indicative of the shortage of skilled manpower that both the education and health sectors will be dependent on expatriate labour for many years.

Telecommunications

The continuing demand for radio, telegraph and telephone equipment in Oman has made this one of the few sectors of the communications industry in which the pace of development has not slowed since the start of Sultan Qaboos's reign. Some 3,000 telephones are being installed annually throughout the country, and links now exist in all but the remotest areas of Oman. The installation of modern switch systems at exchanges in Muscat, Marrah and Salalah has made direct dialling possible between the chief towns and cities, where previously links were by radio channels only.

Until 1975, international connections relied solely on a 24-circuit booster station at Wadiyah, which relayed calls via high frequency radio channels through Bahrain to other countries. But today, with the aid of a new 60-circuit earth satellite station in the Hajar mountains, which was built by an Italian company and commissioned to November, 1975, Oman is linked by direct dialling to the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar.

The pace of development has been much hampered since 1976, when the Government set up a company, Omanel, to run the new telephone system, which by that time had a capacity of some 16,000 lines. Omanel is 40 per cent Government owned, and the remaining 60 per cent of the equity is held by Cable & Wireless of the United Kingdom, which was originally engaged in operating the re-routed Muscat-Marrah service in the early 1970s.

The management of Omanel was subsequently taken over by Telecoms of the United States and today British and Indian technical skill under American management has proved surprisingly successful in establishing an efficient and comprehensive service. Telex lines have been installed in offices and hotels throughout the chief towns and there are automatic links with the United Kingdom, Bahrain and Dubai.

From two small transmission stations installed at Muscat and Salalah, Oman received its first radio broadcasts in 1971, and the network developed under the Ministry of Information and Tourism with the construction of more powerful stations at Sib and Salalah.

As a result, national broadcasts transmitted by Radio Oman could be received by 95 per cent of the country by the beginning of 1971. Television programmes were first transmitted in 1974 from a broadcasting station at Kura. At first they were received in and around the capital only, but the later construction of transmission centres at Sib and Salalah, together with three relay stations strategically positioned, brought reception to the whole of the north and the Dhofar region.

The Government is now concentrating on improving and expanding its colour television services, at present received in the north only, and in extending its public information programmes to assist its education drive.

Air and sea ports

Before the accession of Sultan Qaboos, Oman had one solitary air strip at Bait al Fajal, capable of accommodating only light aircraft. Work began in 1971 on an international airport 28 miles from Muscat, near Sib. The initial work on the runway was completed in 1972 and the following year it was extended and improved to handle even supersonic aircraft. At the same time the passenger and cargo terminal buildings were opened, enabling more than 170,000 passengers and 3,500 tonnes of cargo to be handled by 1976.

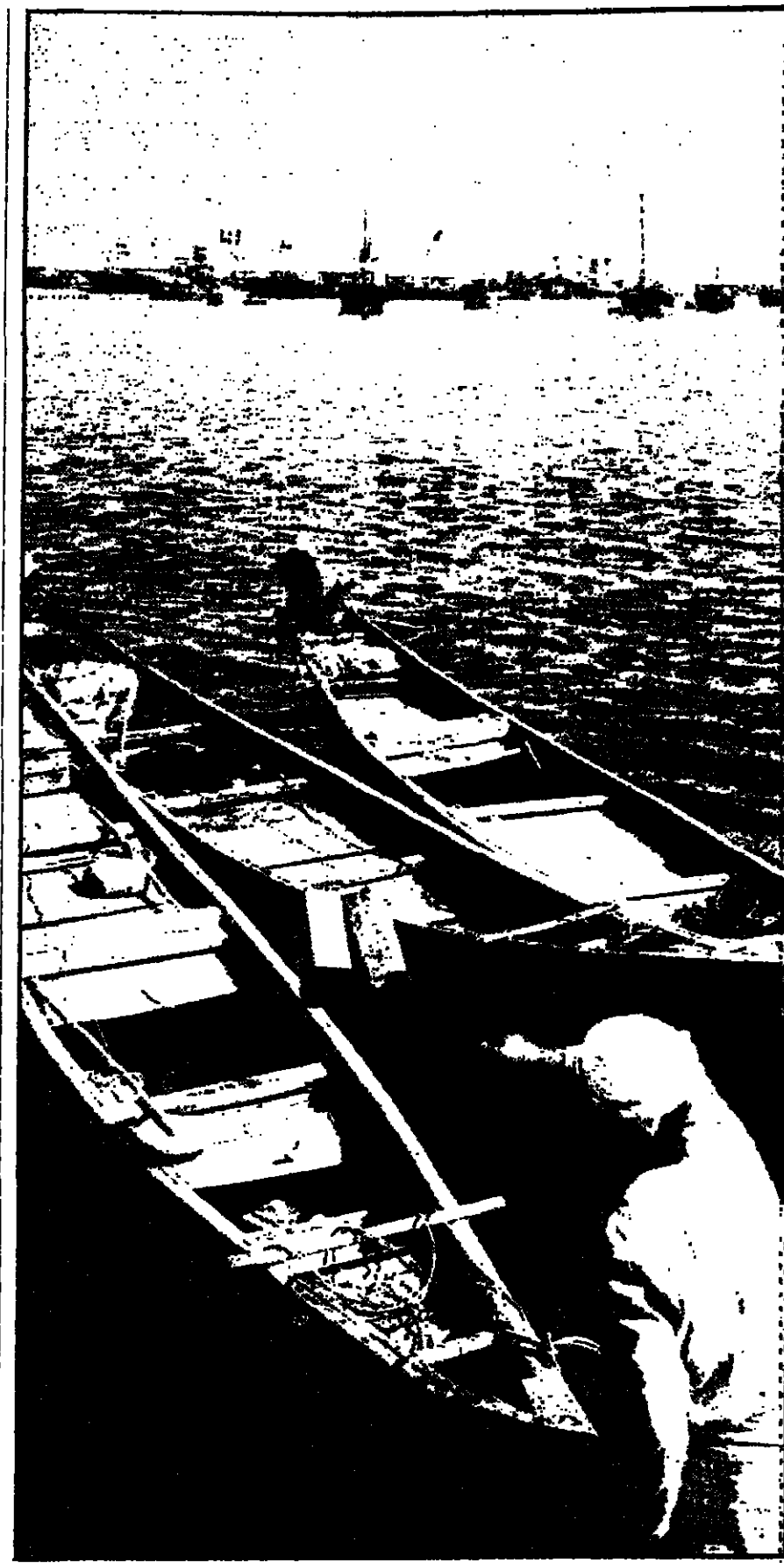
With the acquisition by the Oman Government of a 25 per cent stake in Gulf Air, connections with other Middle East capitals improved dramatically. The air strip at Salalah, once used as a military base only, was also upgraded with the installation of modern equipment and improved runways to handle the high load intensity of jet aircraft. The project, making Salalah Oman's second international airport, was estimated at 15m rials and was awarded to Joannou & Paraskevalides of Cyprus.

From Sib and Salalah air services are now running to a total of six small air fields within the country, at Sur, Hasab, Sohar, Nizwa, Buraimi and Thumait. Most of these are still in need of buildings and rather more advanced landing systems, but with the achievements of Sib and Salalah behind it, the Government no longer considers the improvement of its air services to be high on its list of priorities.

But even more remarkable has been the metamorphosis of Oman's shipping links. A far cry from the time-consuming process of off-loading cargo on to waiting barges in the deep waters outside Muscat, the new harbour at Matrah, built at a cost of \$40m and opened in 1974, handled 556,000 tonnes in its first year of operation, and the figure had risen to 1,200,000 tons a year by 1976.

The purchase of modern cargo handling equipment and extensive work on warehousing facilities has now raised the annual capacity of Mina Qaboos to 1,500,000 tonnes. Today it has 10 deep water berths including a limited container service scheduled for expansion, three coaster berths and a monthly roll-on, roll-off service to Shorham in the United Kingdom, operated by James Glover. Cranes capacity has reached 150 tonnes and the Government is considering buying a \$2.4m container crane.

A new port at Raysut has fast become the port for the whole of the Dhofar region since its completion in 1973. Just 154 ships offloaded a total of 223,000 tonnes of cargo in 1976, and the prospect of increased oil exports from the region soon has led to the preparation of detailed feasibility studies on the construction and equipment required. The most recent project in connexion with Raysut's development is the construction of new berths near to Salalah to accommodate tankers of up to 45,000 tons. Completion is expected in the mid-1980s.



A Matrah fisherman throws his outboard motor fuel into his boat. In the background is Mina Qaboos.

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been diluted by the rapid initialization which has accompanied the modernization of the capital and its twin city Salalah. The capital probably has a population of 30,000 compared with 10,000 in 1968. The rate of growth has been rapid, such as the new operations against the far rebels as well as the northern Oman, is also being reformed.

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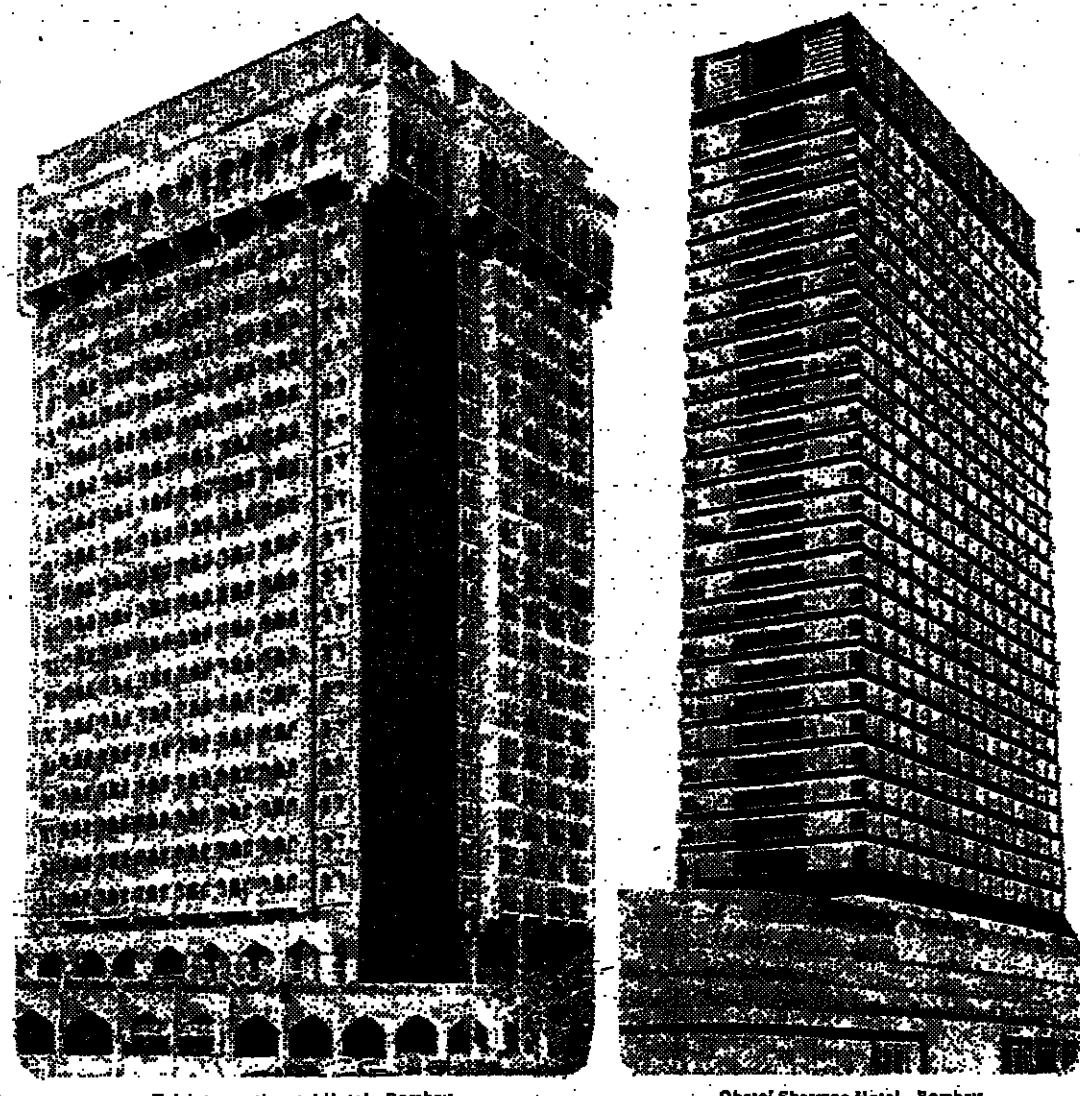
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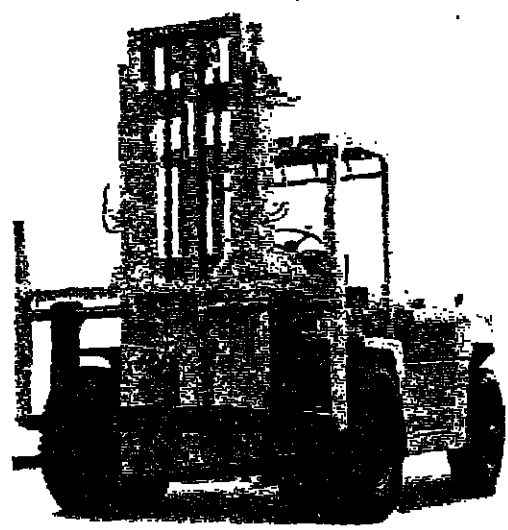
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Wealth of species in danger

by Norma Ashworth

Oman was once not only more fertile than most of Arabia but also richly inhabited by wildlife. The depredations of man and the progressive desiccation of the climate took some centuries to affect both to a profound degree; it is hoped that the last quarter of the twentieth century will find the perfect balance.

A return to fertility has already begun and there is the certainty that with re-afforestation and increasing agriculture, man's needs will be well served long before this century ends. What is perhaps more urgent to view

of the speed of development in the sultanate is the safeguarding of the wild environment. For some species of animal, it is known to be too late to find them in their natural habitat; others long out of sight are believed to have retreated from hunting parties and kept a precarious existence where man finds it difficult to penetrate.

Both to search for and resettle native creatures will take a long time. The number of factors to be considered are labyrinthine and require patient study before Oman can feel content that protection, replenishment and development are in harmony.

An adviser on the preservation and development of

the environment to report directly to the Sultan was appointed three years ago. Mr. Ralph Daly has been made responsible for the delicate task of balancing the rights and needs of the people against a study that beckons the world's experts in the natural sciences. After three years there is considerable progress and still no territorial conflict.

The first general report on Oman's zoological and botanical specimens has been produced this year compiled from the Flora and Fauna Survey of 1975. It will soon have the results of a special Dhofar survey added when the reports of this year's expeditions in the Southern Province are complete.

The compilation of Oman data has given all experts the same problems: precisely-labelled specimens are rare as the travellers who collected them, found with great difficulty in random collections. The most reliable records of natural history in Arabia generally contain inconsistent references to Oman and only the amateur diarists of the last century, together with the explorers of recent decades, have provided useful observations.

Bird and marine life is possibly the best documented as regards the enumeration of species; the white oryx and Arabian tahr, the best known of the Oman mammals because of their lamentable near-extinction. Within the past two decades hunting parties from bordering lands can be blamed for wiping out the oryx in slaughter by machine-gun fire from Land-Rovers. Their reintroduction from captive breeding herds (in Kenya, Arizona and Jordan) is being delayed until their future protection in the wild can be assured.

Legislation already exists to protect all types of gazelle, white oryx, ibex and tahr and the cooperation of tribesmen in the former hunting grounds is being sought. The Hubbarah buzzard is also totally protected and once accurate counts have been made, the peregrine and gyrfalcon species of falcon are expected to be added to the list.

Only 20 years ago the explorer Wilfred Thesiger was able to list sightings of large wild herds of gazelle and oryx and in the Central and Southern Regions he saw wolves, striped hyenas, leopards, wildcats, panthers and an innumerable variety of rodents and amphibians. The birds of Arabia in general were already known but it is only during the past few years that Oman has been found to be on the principal migratory paths from the northern tundras to Africa. Natives and exotics are increasing year by year as the vegetation and areas of water holes are increased.

The Flora and Fauna Survey of 1975 has brought to light the existence of so many creatures and types of plantlife that Oman is becoming a magnet for specialists. Dr. David Harrison, a leading authority on the mammals of Arabia, says: "Oman has huge areas of unspoilt primeval wilderness. This is a time of great opportunity so that we can act to avoid many of the disastrous mistakes made in other parts of the world."

A paper for the survey on the reptiles and amphibians from the mountains of northern Oman records the presence of rare geckoes and two species previously unreported for central Arabia—the skink *Maubouffia tessellata* and viper *Pseudocerastes persicus*. From the freshwater fish surveys, it has been possible to add seven important types to the Arab collections in the British Museum.

Observers from the Anti-Locust Research Centre have provided verification on specialized surveys of insects, which have produced large numbers of interesting species of butterfly, moth, scorpion and mollusc. Parasite studies have also begun.

The beginning of a comprehensive plant survey, being undertaken by J. P. Mandaville junior acknowledges that early collectors were keen and observant but so imprecise as to location that the search for proof will be long. What reliable data that are available come mainly from the French collector, Aucher-Eloy, who spent a month in Oman in 1838, collected 250 species and died of fever the same year. The generally floristic descriptions of other travellers are found not to be botanically sound, merely abundant. All collections are being made and classified in duplicate so that Oman will keep pace with all discoveries and hold a permanent museum herbarium. The hazards of new building and cultivating development are being monitored closely.

Natural sense of balance

by Paul Munton

When rain falls on Oman, the people say, "Allah karrem" (Allah is generous), for rain is recognized as a seminal gift and not as something that may be taken for granted.

The country is fortunate that in a time of rapid industrial and urban development this attitude of respect is being extended to all the natural riches and beauties with which it is endowed.

The sultanate has a plentiful and diverse flora and fauna, much of it peculiar to Oman, which belies the outsider's view of the country as a desert with spring-based oases. The riches of Oman extend from the mountains to the plains,

and along the coasts into the coral sea.

As Oman continues its development into a modern state, the Sultan has shown great awareness of the need to understand the ecological relationships that sustain and bind the natural life of the country and to take action to conserve or preserve where and when the necessity arises. Such understanding recognizes the compatibility of development and conservation and appreciates that, with wisdom, the benefits of modern technology and the ancient riches of the natural world may be combined to give a country and its people sustained wealth and strength.

This awareness originally manifested itself in the setting up of an office in Muscat as part of the Ministry of Diwan Affairs, which was concerned solely with advising on the conservation, preservation and development of the environment in Oman. Work started with a programme for the survey and identification of the flora and fauna of Oman, which were little known.

In 1975 an expedition collected and identified the animals and plants from two important areas in the north of Oman. The report of this expedition has just been published by the Ministry of Diwan Affairs. It states that northern Oman has a unique flora and fauna which has some aspects suggesting that it is a relic from a past age. This year the south of the country, Dhofar, is being surveyed in the same way and this has been an exciting undertaking.

Besides this work two long-term projects are under way, both sponsored jointly by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources together with the World Wildlife Fund, with the Oman Government providing half the funds.

One of the studies is peculiarly Omani—the study of the Arabian tahr, a sort of goat native to the north of Oman. The other has international implications. This is the study of the turtles that use the beaches of Oman, especially Muscat, Loggerhead turtles, Olive Ridley, hawksbill and green turtles all nest on the island. The adults range widely over the oceans and this work is therefore an integral part of the international effort to conserve the turtles and its habitats all over the world.

Wise use of grazing land by Beduin may be especially

relevant for the survival of the Arabian tahr. This was the subject of the first of the two WWF and IUCN joint projects to set under way in the sultanate. It is directed at the mountainous areas to the north of Oman and its main answers are likely to come from an understanding of the nature of the interaction between domestic stock and the tahr, since the two appear to have co-existed in the mountains for many centuries.

Other important wildlife projects are planned. The jewel in the crown of Oman conservation may be the re-establishment of the white oryx in the island desert fringes which was their last known refuge in the wild. Stocks of the animals are held in several zoos in different countries and it may be possible to acquire some of these to use as a nucleus for a breeding herd to be reintroduced to the wild.

This would also be of direct benefit to the Harasis tribe of the area (which was not responsible for the demise of the white oryx—it was exterminated by the Arabians) from exploitation by other tribes, with the result that their area is now the only one in Oman where this species (also in the World Wildlife Fund red book of endangered species) is still abundant. It may be possible to persuade the Harasis to become as jealous of the wellbeing of reintroduced oryx. The other important work going on in Oman concerns education, especially of the young people of Oman so that they stand some chance of avoiding the costly mistakes that have marked the advance of technological applications in many countries in the recent and not so recent past.

With the development of the secondary school curriculum still continuing, the opportunity is being taken to introduce sound ecological ideas into biological science teaching. Dr. Munton is director of a joint World Wildlife Fund conservation project in Oman.

Ministry acquires sailing-ship

If good fortune attends and the last part of the two-month journey is untroubled, a star of today's celebrations in the province of Dhofar will surely be a three-masted top-gallant schooner arriving at Raysut harbour under full sail.

The Youth of Oman is the renamed sail training ship, Captain Scott, which left from her place of origin in Buckie, north Scotland, on September 12, with 20 Omani cadet officers among the crew. The Sultan has given one third of the cost of the ship, his Government the other two thirds, to make a gift to the Ministry of Youth Affairs for an assured future of training and pleasure programmes.

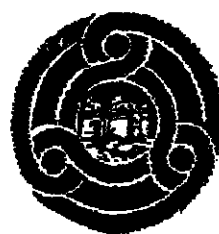
It makes both an agreeable launching symbol of a new ministry (formed by royal decree in April, 1976) and a happier rebirth for a ship fallen into obscurity. The Captain Scott was built in 1971 for the Duke of Devonshire and intended for the introduction of longer, and tougher training courses than those run in the two earlier sail training vessels—Winston Churchill and Malcolm Miller.

When the trust ran into difficulties, principally over industrial concerns' reluctance to lose labour time for so long and rigorous a course, the ship went on the market. Even the sale has been delayed, but the ship has been chosen (at al-Khufayyah, not far west of Muscat) and there is confidence that it will be a model, unusual in the Gulf.

Sport tends to attract more notice than the other activities of the youth clubs but the cultural and social projects are having equal success. All will be used to judge standards of excellence for the presentation of trophies and certificates in a new scheme based on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Britain. As with everything else in the clubs, the emphasis is on equality of opportunity to both boys and girls.

This is an aspect of Oman that rarely receives the emphasis such insistence upon equality deserves. The benefits of formal education and leisure-time learning in the clubs are reaching into family life in a way that is a reversal of the normal order in Western countries. The children in the smaller and more remote communities are becoming the teachers of their parents and bringing them into touch with the ways of modern Oman.

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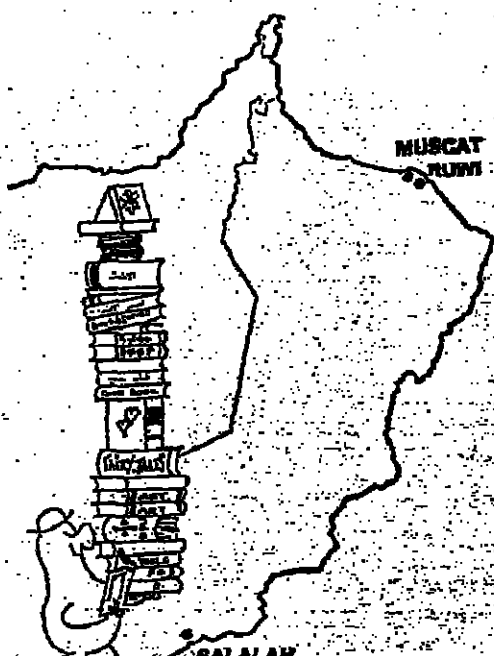
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FOCUS ON

COMMUNICATIONS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Quick flights replace camel trains

by Christopher Walker

No part of Oman's national life suffered more from the determination of the previous Sultan to shut out the twentieth century than its internal and external communications.

Today's visitor being whisked from Sib international airport along a dual carriageway in an air-conditioned taxi would find it hard to believe that seven years ago the highway did not exist and there were only 5km of paved road in the entire sultanate, the second largest country in the Arabian peninsula.

Many Omanis still talk with pride and some amazement about their country's achievement in improving internal travel and connections with the outside world. Until the late 1960s, a journey to Dubai would have taken a wearisome two weeks by camel train, whereas a traveller now can choose between a 40-minute flight or a four-hour car journey.

Work on the country's

main airport at Sib, a sensible 30km from the capital, Muscat, began even before the Government of Sultan Qaboos had reaped the full benefit from the oil boom. Built by the Cypriot contractors of Ioannou and Paraskevaides, the runway was completed in 1972, and a year later the terminal buildings were opened.

For pilots and passengers alike the inauguration brought much relief, as previous incoming flights had had to include a hair-raising descent over the jagged mountains which surrounded the only airport, at Baital-Falaj. Now the latter has been turned into a new town, and on holidays bizarre cricket matches between teams of Indian and Pakistani expatriates take place on the remaining air-strip.

During 1976 Sib averaged a monthly total of 3,000 aircraft movements and received 172,000 incoming passengers. The percentage of arrivals has increased substantially during the first six months of this year, but the incidence of delays caused by local factors remains small. One reason remains small. One reason

weather conditions. Dust and moisture are largely taken out of the airstream, leaving the approach much less hazy than is often the case at other airports in the Gulf.

Much of the operation of the airport is in the hands of expatriates, with Pen American in charge of air traffic control, airfield maintenance and communications. Because of Sib's location, just south of the main east-west air routes, the Omani authorities are hoping to encourage more international supersonic flights through the area.

Plans are now in hand for an extension to the runway at Sib, improved electrical generating capacity and further extensions to terminal buildings. In Dhofar, improvements to the airport at Salalah have recently been completed as part of a 50m rial project which has given the airport international status for the first time. There are no delays for passengers and freight,

either at the country's main seaport, at Muscat, which was opened in August 1974. Before then all goods imported into Oman had to make the precarious journey ashore by lighter and costly losses and breakages often resulted.

Named after the ruler, the port complex—modern in design—contains 12 berths, nine of which are deepwater. Early bottlenecks were eliminated when a double shift system was introduced in 1975, and apart from the traditionally difficult period at the end of the Ramadan fast, the average period for unloading is now down to two days. Over the next few years productivity is expected to improve further with the introduction of roll-on-roll-off facilities.

Last year Port Qaboos Muscat received 1,100,000 tons of cargo, compared with 220,000 tons landed at the southern port of Raysut, built only 8km from Salalah and now the subject of a rapid development programme because of the recent announcement that it will play an important part in the new \$300m oil drill-

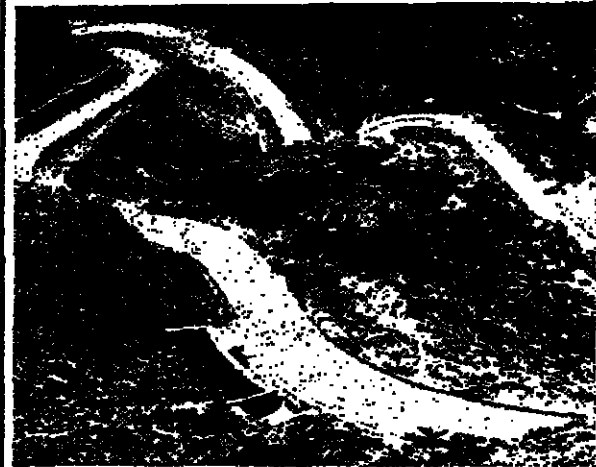
ing project which is due to start in Dhofar next January.

One of the main benefits of the rapid improvement in communications has been the lift which it has given to efforts to integrate and unify the various regions of Oman. Nowhere has this been more obvious than in road-building, which has received a much larger share of the national development budget than either the seaports or airports. The emphasis placed on construction in this sector followed the successful example set by Saudi Arabia in the 1960s.

The wide social and economic implications of this programme are frequently noted by foreign diplomatic observers. The statistics tell their own story. By the summer of 1977, the original total of 5km of paved road had been extended by 1,257km and in addition the country had 8,500km of graded roads, with others of both varieties still under construction in various areas, including parts of the remote Dhofar jebel which until recently were in rebel hands.



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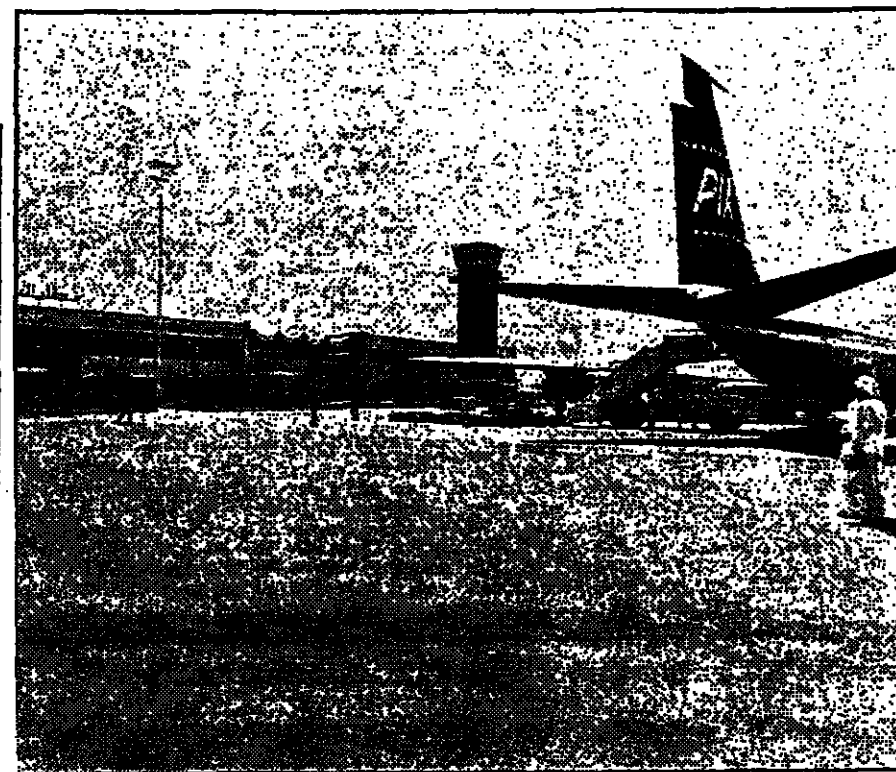
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Sib international airport. Its siting cut out hair-raising descents.

Lines are always busy

by John Whelan

The state-controlled Oman telecommunications (Omantel) has one of the more thankless tasks of a developing state. The demand for telephone lines and telefax is insatiable and the frustrations of dialling even in the capital are legion. The most common response by a hotel switchboard is: "Sorry the line is busy".

Part of the explanation lies in the fact that Omantel is not a private company and is therefore working within the strict confines of a budget and in particular the strictures on spending laid down by the five-year plan. According to government statistics there were 6,649 telephone lines at the end of 1976. By the beginning of this month the number had risen to 15,960 which is close to the 16,000 ceiling to be installed under present contracts. Most of the contracting work so far has been done by L. M. Ericsson, of Sweden, which is among the parties interested in a 7,000-line extension of the network in the capital and Salalah. Omantel is now evaluating bids for the contract and expects this to get going in the new year.

Specifications are also being prepared for an extension of the telex network which at present comprises 335 outlets in the capital and Salalah put together.

The five-year plan allows a total of 3m rials to be spent on telephone development in the capital area and 3.4m rials for development in the interior including the Musandam enclave which is not at present joined to the telephone network. This excludes 800,000 rials which has been set aside for earth satellite stations.

Omantel's management is 60 per cent controlled by the government and 40 per cent by Cable & Wireless but Noor Mohammad, general manager of Omantel, says the authority's capital is 100 per cent government-controlled. He reports as general manager to the Minister of Communications and says that spending is strictly in line with the plan. Before Omantel was established in August 1975 the telephone network was run by Cable & Wireless but was restricted largely to Muscat

and Muttrah. Now it extends through the Ruwi Valley to Sib and up the Batinah Coast to Kharat al Malah on the northern border with Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates. The rural exchanges extend west to Buraimi and south to Buraimi to Ibril. The eastern triangle of the country around Sur is also serviced. Salalah was until the middle of this month linked to the north by radio but as from National Day Omantel was planning to improve communications by using a 24-circuit satellite booster station to relay calls by way of the Atlantic satellite.

International calls are routed through an earth satellite station in the Hajjar Mountains which was built by STS of Italy. It is linked through the Indian Ocean satellite. Omantel says the satellite station now has 72 circuits. More can be added to meet demand until 1980. Direct dial exists through earth links with the UAE but for most other international calls the links are semi-automatic, meaning that only the operator can dial direct. Waiting time for London calls average about 45 minutes unless there are exceptional circumstances. Telecoms of the United States has provided a consultancy service for the earth satellite station and has had some trained staff on secondment.

Development will now take place first in the capital and at Salalah where the twin business centres of Oman have coalesced. Omantel considers the interior network sufficient for the present while acknowledging that there are gaps. It plans soon to implement work on connecting the Musandam enclave with the outside world.

Without the financial resources of its rich neighbour the UAE, whose telecommunications authority Emintel has raised capital this year in the Euro market, Omantel has to move slowly. There is also an emphasis on training Omani technicians and engineers as it befits a country with a large and willing workforce.

For the visitor trying for the tenth time in a morning to get a ministry or public service call, the story that some businessmen in Oman hire small boys to dial numbers continuously begins to sound less and less apocryphal.



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FOCUS ON

SPORT, EXPATRIATES AND CUSTOMS

Football fever brings now familiar troubles

by Christopher Walker

As the experience of other oil-rich Gulf states has already demonstrated, football fever has now become as inevitable a by-product of the modernization of traditional Arab society as concrete office blocks and air-conditioned limousines.

Unlike its two northern neighbours, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the sultanate of

Oman has not yet hit the international soccer headlines by buying into the cream of British football management. But it is still no exception to the general rule. Eighteen months ago, after the budding national team put up a lacklustre performance in the Gulf Cup, the Sultan decided that it was time to acquire a full-time English coach.

The man selected was Jeff Butler (known affectionately to his players as "Mr Jeff"), a hardy professional who had previously

enjoyed a successful but not spectacular career with Norwich City and Notts County. "Our first aim was to develop sport in the country," a government official explained. "To do that we needed a man who was prepared to 'water the pitch' and even mark out the lines. The Don Revie of this world are above that sort of thing."

Already the English influence combined with irreplaceable local enthusiasm has led to the formation of this year of the first

national Omani league along formal Football Association lines. In spite of the obvious geographical problems, two divisions have now been established and when the new season began late in September, the authorities were caught unaware when an unheard-of crowd of over 3,000 turned out for the opening game.

The wave of football mania has brought in its wake problems that are already depressing families in Europe, and the Omani police are now

having quickly to learn the rudiments of crowd control. So far the matches of the 1977 season have passed without serious incident, but officials are keenly aware that fixtures between teams from different tribes could inflame traditional hostilities.

The full extent of the achievements already attained in sport is highlighted by the formidable of the relentless sunshine, which has had to be overcome. Although football matches do not kick off until late

afternoon, they often take place on stony pitches in energy-sapping temperatures of more than 90°. So far the only grass pitch in the sultanate is to be found at the large national police stadium at Wateyah. It was constructed at a cost of 180,000 rials with grass flown in from South America in deep-frozen containers. Because of the impressive and incongruous looking rectangle of green turf has to be rested for a minimum of three

days between each game. Next July work is to begin on a national sports centre to be known as Olympic City. The fact that it will cost an estimated 13m rials is a reflection of the deep personal interest taken in the development of sport by the Ruler, Sultan Qaboos Bin Said. When built, the complex will house a 45,000-seater stadium, an Olympic size pool and 450 visiting athletes.

Although football is now far and away the most popular Omani sport, hockey is

the game with the longest local history. Reflecting the strong Indian influence in many parts of the sultanate, records show that the first hockey games took place in Muscat more than 40 years ago. Today the game has become unfashionable among the young, and many of its remaining devotees are fast approaching middle age.

Other sports being vigorously encouraged by the Ministry for Youth Affairs are volleyball, swim-

ming and athletics—the last two under the guidance of the British coaches. Unlike the other Gulf states, Oman, from the traditional Arab blood sport of falconry, and it has now been officially banned as a conservation measure.

Those in search of the esoteric have to be content with the hair-raising camel races which take place on certain national holidays, and also at the elaborate wedding ceremonies staged in the desert by members of the nomadic Bedu tribes.

Salaries compensate for arduous conditions

Although British connections with Oman stretch back to the Napoleonic wars, even as recently as 13 years ago the size of the expatriate community was so small that its members could all be invited to attend the Queen's birthday party on the shaded veranda of the embassy.

"In those days we were just like one big and usually very happy family", commented a diplomat who was based in Muscat at the time. The exploitation of oil and the repressive and reactionary Sultan Said Bin Taimur, has changed the picture completely. At the last count the number of British residents registered with the embassy numbered nearly 5,000, but that is generally regarded as an underestimation of the total number living in the sultanate.

Until the 1970 coup, British residents were required by the Sultan's order to live within the walled city of Muscat, a measure which it was claimed was taken for their own protection. Today they are scattered in every corner of the country, often living and working in arduous conditions.

Perhaps the most isolated Briton of all is Mr Michael Freeman, a busy Dorset-born civil engineer who is supervising the construction of a school in the former rebel held coastal village of Rakhayut, about 25 miles from the border with the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

The sole European living in the ragged collection of shell-scarred buildings, Mr Freeman's only contact with the outside world is by way of a rough airstrip. But for four months of the year this is cut off by thick monsoon cloud, leaving only the occasional and risky helicopter visit to replenish the deep freeze in his makeshift white caravan.

Like many other Britons working to help to build Oman's vital social and economic basic services, the affable Mr Freeman is candid about his motivation. "I am here for the money, which is better than I could earn anywhere else in the world and is completely tax free", he said.

"My goal is simply to pay off the mortgage on an £18,000 house that I have bought in Swansea. Last

year I repaid half and by the end of next summer the debt should be forgotten."

In stark contrast to the mental and physical hardship endured by field engineers like Mr Freeman, many of the British expatriates working in the north of Oman enjoy the kind of comfortable, post-colonial existence which is still experienced by foreigners in many parts of the world.

Air conditioning in cars and houses now helps to ameliorate the blistering summer temperatures of more than 120°F which quite often killed expatriates in the past.

Three first-class hotels with pool clubs and a safe beach exist in the capital area, and despite the strict Islamic convictions of the Omanis, fewer restrictions are imposed on outsiders than in most of the other Gulf states.

The one factor which differentiates expatriate life in Oman from that in other developing countries is the unusually high proportion of bachelors, many of whom live in army-style messes although they work for civilian firms. The reason is the impossibility of

forming relationships with the local women, and an unofficial estimate of the ratio of men to women in the expatriate community is 34 to one.

It is reflected constantly in conversation, in the special arrangements made at dinner parties to accommodate single men and the deterrent charge of £15 a head imposed on them at one of the country's two discotheques.

For families living in modern houses and flats in the new urban complex of Ruwi, the main problems centre on the high cost of everyday living and the almost complete absence of Western cultural facilities.

In spite of the generous local salaries and the absence of tax, prices—such as imported steak at £7.50 a kilo, eggs at £1.40 a dozen and a loaf of bread at 65p—can make the weekly budget hard to balance.

But every British housewife I questioned seemed happy enough to endure local difficulties in exchange for the guarantee of a year-round sunbathe.

C. W.

Etiquette essential for success

by Norma Ashworth

The unfailing courtesy of an Omani would never allow a visitor to know when he had given offence, so that the niceties of behaviour are learnt almost by chance. There is so much tolerant latitude given to a foreigner that a serious lapse of behaviour might occur inadvertently and the consequences of withdrawn privileges come as a surprise.

When it was suggested some years ago that any future guidebook would need to include a comprehensive chapter on etiquette, an eminent Omani demurred. He suggested that civility behaviour was universal and there was nothing intricate in the Omani code.

Such is evidently the view of the French compiler of the first tourist booklet dealing with Oman to come on to the market. The celebrated *Guides Bleus* series will include Oman as the thirteenth in its list. The book will be published late this year, well in advance of any tourist trade. Its introduction asserts that the people, although modern in outlook, have preserved the traditions of incomparable discretion, hospitality and warmth of welcome.

An earlier book of advice to businessmen hoping to make useful moves in the Middle East generally was more specific. For instance, haste is the greatest discourtesy and nowhere else will the clock-watching, dynamic go-getter fall faster than in Oman. The standards of agreed appointments can be frustrating by Western standards but the total attention accorded a visitor once he has secured his interview is both flattering and seductive.

For centuries past, the man of importance has made time to see all visitors. Patience is expected on both sides. The wali (local governor) of even a small town will receive dozens of his citizens daily in an orderly progression, to hear their complaints or merely to receive their greetings.

The sick may have an atmosphere of noisy vitality but here, too, the buying and selling is done with a minimum of haste. Hagglng is rare and foreign visitors are disconcerted to find a polite refusal to reconsider a price. It is regarded as undignified and unnecessary as the prices are fair. While a purchase is being considered, the shopkeeper will send out for coffee or cool drinks and engage in general conversation. He does not press for a sale and sees no obligation after the purchase of drinks.

The offer of refreshment is a ritual that has its origins in primitive times when the visitor would always be in need of water after travelling in difficult and arid conditions. The coffee ritual is more formal and is regarded

as an inviolate duty by the rules of hospitality. However, impoverished a man may be, he must offer a stranger at least coffee.

There is a perfect illustration in the story of an old man insisting upon making coffee for the police before allowing them to take him from his home under arrest. Custom says that one is expected to take no fewer than three cups before indicating by waggling the tiny handle-less cups that one has been well refreshed.

The idea persists abroad that at a grand feast where a roast goat or sheep is served in pieces on a mound of rice, the honoured guest will be compelled to eat the eyeballs of the animal. Perhaps it happened in the past but the Omanis, ever sensible of foreign foibles, would never allow ritual to count above a guest's comfort and people with long experience of Oman have never seen the eyeballs on the *khuzi* (the meat and rice meal served with many side dishes).

There is even a polite way of declining to take more of any sweetmeats or cakes. Merely to place a finger above the plate indicating one piece and withdrawing the hand suggests the desire without the capacity.

The use of only the right hand during an Arab meal is an observance well known; Parties held by foreigners are not required to follow such a rule and it is no longer unusual to see Omani

unaccustomed to sitting gracefully on the floor, are excused if their contortions bring feet into prominence. However, it is considered impolite to cross one's legs and swing one's foot negligently while sitting in a chair.

Formality is the prerogative of the male. The women, because their role in public has been slight until the present day, have less rigidly defined standards of social behaviour. They were traditionally strictly segregated but lived lives of uncomplicated felicity, wielding a substantial share of domestic power behind the scenes. They knew—and enjoyed—their place and were generally unresentful of the division of authority and absence of public standing.

The changing times of modern Oman are likely to cause the total lapse of segregation within a generation. This will apply only to the larger areas of population where the adoption of more relaxed customs and practices of the outside world has been rapid.

It continues to be the custom to separate the men and women as they arrive at formal parties and all Omani homes reserve the *majlis* (main reception hall) for the men and purdah quarters for the women.

Parties held by foreigners are not required to follow such a rule and it is no longer unusual to see Omani

wives unveiled in mixed company. One Omani man has explained that the old style of social gathering is likely to be preferred and for this reason he has installed two television sets in his house. As an afterthought, he admitted that in the *majlis*, the set was a colour one; the ladies would have only black and white.

Foreigners are still unprepared for what seems like a primitive intrusion into modern liberalism when, for instance, a sheltered enclosure is provided for veiled women at public gatherings. The National Day celebrations are watched by mixed crowds in grandstands and from open tiers of seats, yet there is always a separate box veiled in gauze from which the royal ladies and others close to the court watch. The cinemas, which have existed in Oman for only four years, also have screened enclosures for women who are unwilling to accept the new freedom.

According to Islam, a man may have up to four wives at any one time, but Omanis seem to prefer monogamy. This has simplified the gradual adoption of new standards of life which might otherwise have proved difficult. Muhammad has decreed that all wives must be treated in every way equally—a dictum easier to follow while expectations of wealth and personal requirements were more predictable.

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